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## Banners banned at Olympics

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### Opening rehearsal lights up the night

A full rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games was held at the National Stadium, or Bird's Nest, Wednesday night.

As many as 17,000 actors participated in the rehearsal and officials said two more rehearsals are scheduled.

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# Olympic centers set to work round the clock

By He Jianwei

The Technology Operation Center (TOC) for the Olympics will be in full operation by the end of the month, an official from Olympic systems integrator Atos Origin said Tuesday morning at Digital Beijing Building.

"Starting July 25, the TOC will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Jeremy Hore, Atos Origin's chief integrator, said.

The Games will utilize 4,000 IT personnel over 17 days, with 24-hour staffing of the TOC beginning July 25.

The center finished the second of two technical rehearsals for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games on June 13. "In the last 30 days

before the opening ceremony, we are moving from a project mode into an operation mode," Patrick Adiba, executive vice president, Olympic and Major Events, Atos Origin, said.

During the 30-day lead up, Atos will prepare for the Paralympic Games, which will begin two weeks after the end of the Olympic Games.

The second technical rehearsal from June 9 to 13 was a full-scale rehearsal, testing communications and systems involving 33 competition venues and six non-competition venues, along with six remote venues in other cities that hold Olympic Games, including sailing in Qingdao, equestrian

events in Hong Kong and soccer in Shanghai, Shenyang, Qinhuangdao and Tianjin.

The final technical rehearsal, known as Technical Rehearsal 2 (TR2), simulated all the events held on August 13, 16 and 21, which will be the busiest days of the Games, in terms of the number of the competitions and venues in all the seven cities.

A total 2,500 staff members participated in the TR2 simulation of 500 scenarios, including power failure, network disconnection and staff food poisoning.

Hore said about 80 percent of the scenarios were based on problems that have appeared at the previous Olympic Games.

During the Games, Hore predicted their team would deal with 80,000 messages in real-time data statistics every day.

If a severe problem occurs, such as terrorist attack, a back-up Technology Operation Center will open to continue support the Olympic Games.

The Main Press Center, International Broadcast Center and the Beijing International Media Center for the Beijing Olympics formally opened Tuesday and will operate 24-hours per day from July 25 to August 27 for media crews from around the world, Sha Wanquan, director of the MPC and IBC operation teams, said Tuesday.

## Checks, delays in store for air travelers

By Zhang Dongya

Starting July 20, as many as 20 airports around the country, especially those related to the Olympic Games, will begin extra security checks on passengers, according to the announcement issued by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) Monday.

All passengers must go through security checks twice, both at the terminal and before boarding, according to the announcement.

People who go to the airport to see off relatives and friends must also submit to a security check before entering the airport.

People caught carrying explosive, inflammable or other materials will be punished.

The measures will be enforced at six cities hosting the Olympic events. Besides Beijing's Capital International Airport, the measure will take effect in Shanghai's Pudong and Hongqiao airports, at the Qingdao, Tianjin, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao airports, and also at airports in Shijiazhuang, Taiyuan, Jinan, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Hefei, Changchun, Harbin, Hohhot and Dalian.

All 11 airports in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and two civilian airports in the Tibet Autonomous Region will require the checks.

Since the extra checks will take time and may cause delays, the CAAC said passengers should arrive at the airport earlier than usual.

Other airports, including Kunming and Lijiang in Yunnan Province, have tightened their security measures.

The CAAC has taken many measures to ensure safety this year, including banning all forms of liquids and gels, lighters and matches from carry-on and checked baggage.

The government has trained 24,012 people for Olympics security and staged 369 emergency drills. As many as 160 customs workers have been deployed to Capital International Airport to assist with checks.

## Cannons sound off to salute the Games



The 14 cannons, specially developed to salute visitors during the Olympic Games, were tested Monday in Taiyuan city, Shanxi Province. The cannons are now in transit to Beijing.

CFP Photo

## Military confirms it deployed missiles for security

By Han Manman

The military confirmed Tuesday that it deployed Surface-To-Air Missiles for Olympic security, Xinhua reported.

A fenced-off military compound has been set up just south of the Olympic Sports Center Stadium, a venue for the soccer and modern pentathlon events. It is also within a kilometer of the Water Cube and the Bird's Nest National Stadium.

Tian Yixiang, head of the Army Work Department, said in addition to the surface-to-air missiles, the military has also deployed fighter jets, helicopters, naval vessels, radar and anti-chemical warfare gear. Threats from air to Games venues will be shot down if they fly too close, Tian said.

The East Turkistan terrorist

group, Tibetan separatists and Falun Gong cult organizers may try every means to sabotage the Games, Tian said, noting the attempted attack on a flight by East Turkistan terrorists on March 10 and Tibetan riots on March 14.

Tian would not disclose the specific types and models of the surface-to-air missiles deployed by the military. Prior to that, photos of the Red Flag-7 surface-to-air missiles that are deployed near the "Bird's Nest" were widely circulated by media both home and abroad.

Military expert Song Xiaojun told Xinhua that the low-altitude, short-range surface-to-air missile, based on the prototype of the French "Crotale" missile, and with an infrared, TV and radar

guidance system, can shoot down a target with a 80-90 percent success rate at a range from 500 to 12,000 meters. It can effectively intercept helicopters, unmanned planes and cruise missiles.

Song said China is not the first country to use the missiles for the security.

Greece installed dozens of Patriot anti-aircraft missiles around Athens six weeks before the 2004 Olympics, the first Summer Games after the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the US, he said.

Anti-terrorism tops China's security tasks during the Olympics. The country will have nearly 100,000 commandos, police and military personnel on standby up to and during the Beijing Olympics to handle terrorist threat.

## Insurance companies accept on-site claims

By Zheng Lu

Drivers who are not at fault in traffic accidents where there are no casualties will be compensated soon through an unmanned, on-the-spot service by insurance companies.

A press briefing held by the Insurance Regulatory Commission's (CIRC) Beijing Bureau Wednesday gave notice of new regulations for insurance businesses during the Olympic Games.

In the past, both sides involved in any traffic accident had to appear before the insurance company together to arrange compensation. It was a frequent problem because the party at fault would avoid appearing, Liu Yuelin, director general of the bureau, said. The new regulation modified the compensation procedure for slight traffic accidents, and will hopefully save time for parties involved.

The formality of reporting insurance claims has also been simplified. Claimants must provide a license plate number and key information about the accident over the phone to the insurance company.

Compulsory traffic accident liability insurance will be reduced for the next year because of the odd-even vehicle rule, which will be in effect during the Games. Liu said an estimated 200 million yuan worth of claims have been filed in the city, according to Liu.

Business hours for claim settlement at insurance institutions will be extended and the service available on weekends. Insurance companies have set up special teams to handle consultation and complaints round-the-clock.

New regulations will take effect July 20. Liu said some of the regulations will persist even after the Games.

### Brief news

#### Gene program approved

The State Council has approved a program to develop transgenic species to shore up sustainable agricultural development.

The program aims to gain genes of commercial value whose intellectual property rights belong to China, and to develop high-quality, high-yield and pest-resistant genetically-modified new species.

#### 4,000 small coal mines to close by 2010

More than 4,000 small coal mines will be closed by 2010, bringing the country's total count of small mines to less than 10,000, a coal mine safety official said Wednesday.

The country has 16,000 coal mines, 90 percent of which are small. For each 1 million tons of coal produced, the death toll at small mines is eight times that of in large state-owned mines.

#### Park toilets upgraded

The city is upgrading park toilets for inbound tourists during the Olympiad. It spent 15 million yuan to refurbish 128 toilets in 11 city-managed parks, and is building seven new facilities.

All park toilets must have doors, windows and inner walls cleaned and painted.

(By Han Manman)



# Qingdao takes on green invaders before Olympic sailing

By Huang Daoheng

The algae invasion in Olympic co-host city Qingdao, Shandong Province, has been brought under control to assure the Olympic sailing events from August 9 to 23 will be held smoothly, Zhao Han, vice head of the Qingdao Maritime Affairs Bureau, told a press conference on Tuesday.

"We have stressed to all those devoted to the clean-up campaign that priority should be given to the Olympic venue. We expect to eliminate all the algae before July 15," Zhao said.

Besides cleaning up the coast, Zhao said the city has set up four lines of enclosure for the 50-square-kilometer Olympic venue.

Zhao said more than 130,000

soldiers and volunteers joined the campaign to remove the algae, and 400,000 tons of algae were removed from the water and seashore.

## Algae invasion

The algae was first detected in late May off Dagong Island and moved toward the coast with the help of the current and winds.

As of June 29, the algae spread to cover 13,000 square kilometers, 400 of which were covered in the outbreak, Xinhua reported.

Reasons for the algae boom is still unknown, but Wang Shulian, deputy director of the Qingdao Oceanic and Fishery Department, said it was a natural phenomenon and the algae were flowing from the central region of the Yellow Sea.

Algae is not harmful by itself, Wang said, but the invasion has affected the sailing teams' training and preparation. Athletes from more than 30 countries and regions have come to Qingdao to train for the Games.

To quickly eliminate the algae, the Shandong provincial government dispatched thousands of troops to battle the bloom and earmarked 2 million yuan to track its source and motion for 15 to 20 days.

## Volunteers

Soldiers aside, volunteers who came to enjoy the seashore became another highlight of the campaign.

Yang Yuqing and his wife, a new couple that arrived in the city

for their honeymoon, were among the enthusiastic volunteers.

"We traveled hundreds of kilometers to enjoy the sea, but we were put off by the algae," Yang said. "This may happen when the foreign visitors come during the Games, so we decided to join the clean-up effort."

The couple's mission was to remove 1 ton of algae every day. "Though tired, we feel happy. This is a special honeymoon for us," Yang said.

Local volunteers showed that algae removal was a common goal for a smooth Olympics. "We'd have come earlier, but we were afraid of interfering with the work of the professionals," Wang Junqiang, a local resident, said.

# Push-ups push into Internet fandom

By Jackie Zhang

Push-ups have found new popularity in cyberspace since last Wednesday. The exercise has fast become the new catch phrase and been embraced by companies looking to do clever promotions.

The phrase was coined during a press conference to report the findings of a police investigation into the Weng'an case, which involved a girl's death in Guizhou Province. The police said that before Li Shufen drowned, her friend was doing push-ups on the bridge. "When Liu did his third push-up, he heard Li say 'I'm gone,' after which she jumped into the river."

Within a few hours, the absurdity of "push-ups" made it the new Internet meme. The Fuwocheng BBS at tieba.baidu.com was a virtual unknown with 70 total posts. By the next day, it had over 10,000 posts. The BBS operator Jun-Zangma posted excitedly about his newfound fame.

The catch phrase revived a series of photos of Guangdong TV personality Ou Zhihang.

Taken one year ago at a modern art exhibition, the photos show Ou doing push-up in the nude at the Great Wall, 798 factory, new CCTV tower, Golden Bauhinia Square in Hong Kong and the Waitan area in Shanghai.

Ou didn't know his photos were back in circulation until a friend called and told him. Last Sunday, Ou posted several photos in his blog at sina.com. "I love my country and my body as well," Ou said in the post. He said his push-ups did not share any meaning with the new catch phrase.

Companies have embraced the phrase's promotional possibilities. Tuesday, a huge real estate advertisement poster in Nanjing attracted people's attention by "push-up" as well. There is only one sentence in the poster, saying "The price of houses will not drop, but is doing push-ups," without any pictures or images. Many people took a photo of it with cameras and mobile phones.

"We wanted to be humorous by using a current catch phrase," the designer of the advertisement said. "Housing prices may go down briefly, but they always push back up."

# Biking from Paris to Beijing



103 European and two Chinese bikers arrived Lanzhou, Gansu Province, Tuesday afternoon. They started the ride March 16 from Paris and plan to arrive in Beijing on August 3. The trip is 12,000 kilometers.

CFP Photo

# Vendors ordered to post prices

By Bai Jingnan

Vendors at Panjiayuan antique market and Zhongguancun electronic market are being required to post prices as of this July 15, the Beijing Development and Improvement Committee said.

The government will deploy six to eight price supervising teams to monitor

the markets, especially in August and September, to handle customer complaints of price gouging.

The teams will mainly inspect areas around the Olympic Village, Capital International Airport, Beijing Railway Station and Beijing West Railway Station.

Wang, from Hongqiao Market's

management office, said its vendors received the notice that all goods must be labeled in English and Chinese earlier this month.

However, few vendors have complied. Many traders at Panjiayuan said they had not heard of the notice. "Our daily sales are down a lot compared to last year. The

number of tourists has dropped a lot - especially the number of foreign tourists," traders said.

Some vendors said they heard of the notice but were unsure about the details. "We have been selling things at marked prices for a long time. How is this any different?" Huang, a vendor, said.



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# G-whatever, China is here

(Asia Times) – It will be a strange meeting. Officially, the gathering that began Tuesday at Toyako, on Hokkaido in northern Japan, is a Group of Eight (G-8) summit, drawing together the eight largest economies to discuss issues of mutual interest – mainly economics, but also security and environment.

However, here is the conundrum, China, the world's fourth-largest and fastest-growing economy, is not officially included. The country is invited for some side discussions. If size matters, why is China not among the main participants? Or is it?

President Hu Jintao is there, and surely his words will have more impact than those of representatives from some of the lesser countries among the eight "big," which are led by the US, and include Japan, Germany, the UK, France, Italy, Canada and Russia.

China is, in fact, a leading factor in many talks. In discussions involving the falling value of the US dollar against, for example, the euro, the view from Beijing cannot easily be ignored since it is the largest single creditor of the US, holding perhaps US \$1 trillion of its reserves in US dollars.

Similarly, the pace of appreciation of the yuan is a central concern to summit participants. All the "big eight" are concerned about the inflow of cheap exports

and would like to see a rapid revaluation of the yuan.

The country also has a significant role to play in security matters, hosting talks that have helped to raise the prospects of North Korea's nuclear threat coming under control. Together with Russia, China could also help to influence Iran's nuclear future.

This summit is very different from other G-8 occasions when, despite its size, China held back. This time, more than ever, it will be drawn into discussions more or less formally.

In a way, US President George W. Bush has already indicated his attention to China. He made headlines before his departure for Toyako by saying he would attend the opening of the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing next month, saying that missing the Games would be "an affront to the Chinese people."

So, the country's increased role on the world's economic and political stages makes this de facto the first real G-9 summit. That brings to the fore how to accommodate China in this and future sessions, and what should become of this organization in the future.

Perhaps different groupings, formal or informal, will have to be introduced. There is already talk of a Pacific 3: US, Japan and China.

## News analysis

By Huang Daohen

The G8 summit is more about words than action, according to an analysis released by Xinhua on Wednesday.

The Group of Eight (G8) once again stopped short of pledging immediate and concrete action, in spite of demonstrating its resolve by releasing a series of statements.

While it is a positive sign the leaders are hammering home their determination to tackle the issues, the G8 nations, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the world economy, should turn their words into action, the analysis said.

Climate change is a major issue discussed in the working session on the second day of the three-day summit, however, G8 leaders failed to mention a base year for the reduction, as some analysts pointed out.

In a statement, G8 leaders said they seek to share the vision of the goal of achieving at least 50 percent reduction of global emissions by 2050, but failed to specify what their mid-term goals are.

The statement only set a long-term goal for chopping global emissions rather than targets for each G8 nation.

Many analysts pointed out that a deal that falls short of mid-term targets is unlikely to make people take long-term commitments seriously.

"Unless the G8 leaders agree on immediate action and mid-term targets for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, any long-term promises will be unattainable," Oxfam, an international aid agency, said.

Referring to the current world economy, the G8 summit also failed to write an effective prescription to curb speculation in oil, which is seeing record high prices.

Economists blamed the US subprime loan crisis for the slowing global economy, but the G8 leaders did not put forth any new measures to deal with the crisis during their working session, Xinhua reported.

They only repeated their previous suggestions for strengthening the financial system, the report said.

## Classy tourists charm Taiwan on first weekend

(Reuters) – A historic first wave of 762 tourists from the Chinese mainland charmed Taiwan Province over the weekend by spending money and behaving well, easing fears stoked by decades of animosity, officials said Monday.

The Taiwan stock exchange's tourism index dropped steadily over the past two sessions, losing 5.1 percent despite the launch of direct weekend charter flights on July 4.

The index became overvalued at the start of the year based on hopes for a big local tourism boost, analysts said, but it gave ground when it became clear gains would come more slowly.

"These were key groups of tourists, and they were specially screened," Deputy National Immigration Agency Director Steve Wu said. "It's a good sign, a good start from political, economic and cultural standpoints."

Taiwan officials expect larger groups of tourists to begin arriving from July 18 as travel agents clear paperwork. Most passengers on the 36 trips this past weekend were Taiwanese.

Direct mainland-Taiwan flights are scheduled every week, Friday through Monday, and are almost booked out until August, according to travel agents.

## Free Bibles available at Olympic village

(Reuters) – Free Bibles in both English and Chinese bearing the Beijing Olympic logo will be available to athletes and tourists at next month's Games, state media reported Monday.

The China Christian Council has printed 50,000 copies of the Bible and New Testament, as well as booklets with the four gospels which will be available in churches and the athletes' village, *China Daily* reported.

"As far as I know, this is the first time an Olympic logo will be used on a religious booklet," Xu Xiaohong, a Christian Council of China official, told the paper.

Beijing organizers said last year that the Olympic village ban on "pamphlets and materials used for any religious or political activity or display" did not include personal copies of the Bible.

## 'Nest' replaces Mao on 10-yuan note

(Reuters) – China's Central Bank is issuing a special 10-yuan note to commemorate the Beijing Olympics, swapping the image of communist leader Mao Zedong for a picture of the city's iconic national stadium.

The People's Bank of China says it plans to issue 6 million of the notes, worth about US \$1.45 each, during the games.

The Bird's Nest stadium is an interlocking mesh of steel that looks much like a roost for birds. A picture of the stadium will be on one side of the note, along with the dancing man emblem of the 2008 Olympic Games.

On the other side will be an image of an ancient Greek statue of a discus thrower.

Both sides of the bill will feature the Temple of Heaven as a backdrop, one of the country's best known landmarks.

## Pedaling through Inner Mongolia



By Huang Daohen

As many as 200 bikers from around the world attend the Genghis Khan MTB (Mountain Bike) Festival in Inner Mongolia that took place over the past weekend.

The three-day adventure, covering 180 kilometers, crossed the vast and desolate grasslands of Inner Mongolia, tracing the foot prints of Genghis Khan, arguably the greatest emperor in history.

## Hollywood's panda hit makes nation bare its soul

(The Guardian) – Kung Fu Panda, the Hollywood hit, is prompting roars of laughter and bouts of soul-searching in China, where the film world is asking why it cannot get as much smile-age out of the national symbol.

Despite nationalist calls for a boycott, critics, directors, classical artists and countless bloggers have given two thumbs up to the story of a chubby panda who dreams of becoming a martial arts superhero.

The film topped the box office, having taken more than US \$20 million since its release late last month and continues to play to packed houses.

A parliamentary cultural affairs committee debated why a film with so many Chinese symbols and settings could be made more successfully in Hollywood. The Xinhua news agency said the committee concluded there were too many controls and too few producers willing to take the risk of a US \$123 million film.

"Although there is no secret ingredient to film-making success, the government ought to relax its oversight," the standing committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress was quoted as saying. "Opening more space for artists would allow more inno-

vation, ultimately giving the country greater cultural influence abroad."

The film mixes high technology and star power with traditional Chinese culture, including landscape painting, architecture, classical mythology, acupuncture, modern slang and the symbolic characters of the crane, snake, monkey, praying mantis and tiger – all styles of wushu.

The lead character, Po, is an amusingly sympathetic figure who proves himself above mockery. But Hollywood's use of a panda was criticized by the artist Zhao Bandi, who uses the animal as a motif.

In his blog, Zhao called on compatriots to shun the movie because it profits from a national symbol so soon after the Sichuan earthquake.

But the criticism has been drowned in a sea of laughter. Typically mixed feelings were expressed by Mu, a Sina.com Web site blogger, "They manage to mix the Chinese elements into the film so naturally that we cannot criticize the story as too simple ... although the 'theft' of the panda may pain us, at least it makes the Chinese movie industry consider why we are always one step behind in globalization's war of creativity."



# Tight credit policy may soften

By Huang Daohen

The central government will slightly adjust its macro-economic policies and may soften its tight anti-inflation policy. The debate continues as to whether inflation should be curbed in the face of a cooling economy.

"The principal goal of macro-economic policies should not be to curb price rises only, but to achieve a proper balance between pursuing economic growth and curbing inflation," Xia Bin, director of the financial department with the State

Council's Development Research Center, said at a recent conference.

Xia said if the authorities view curbing inflation as the only goal and sharply cool the economy, it could cause huge problems.

The tight credit policy should be loosened and yuan appreciation should slow down, Xia said, noting ripple benefits for the world economy.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) will release its economic data for the first half of this year on July 17, Xinhua reported, and

the central government will meet to discuss economic policies for the second half of the year.

Whether the tight monetary policy is to be loosened will then become clear, Xia said.

Though curbing inflation is still the top priority, Premier Wen Jiabao said during a weekend trip through the eastern Jiangsu Province and Shanghai that the government should try to "control price rises within an acceptable range for current economic and social development," which experts said may

indicate greater room and flexibility for macro controls.

Voices saying the fast growing economy is overheating have disappeared, and the country faces increasing pressures. In its latest economic outlook, the US Goldman Sachs predicted economic growth in the second quarter to be 10.1 percent.

Statistics from the NBS show that exports in the first five months rose 22.9 percent from a year earlier, but the growth rate was down 4.9 percentage points.

## Net biz licenses may not be enforceable

By Annie Wei

The Beijing Administration of Industry and Commerce announced a draft of a new set of rules governing Internet commerce this week.

The rules, which take effect August 1, said all "for-profit online stores" are required to register for a license while "individuals who sell or exchange items for personal use" are not.

Anyone who wants to open a home-based "for-profit" online store must have permission from their local neighborhood committee, including an agreement from his neighbors, according to the rules.

Authorities are allowed to close non-licensed businesses when located and levy a 20,000 yuan fine against whichever e-commerce platform allowed the business to operate, it said.

Wang Jing, an official in the Beijing Administration of Industry and Commerce, said that cases where a price is negotiated and accepted by both sides could be categorized as "not-for-profit."

If a buyer thinks the seller intends to make a profit, and if this is confirmed by the enforcement department, then the seller will be punished for doing business without a license, Wang said.

Although the new rules aim to benefit the increasing number of customers who prefer shopping online, e-business runners think differently.

Xu Jingfang, an online seller based in Beijing, said she made very little profit from her online business. "The biggest advantage of online shopping is reduced prices since taxes and store rent are not rolled into the cost," Xu said. She is concerned about how much tax she will be required to pay.

"The rules only apply on e-platform and e-sellers in Beijing. I can ask a friend to register an online shop for me from the other province or city," another seller Zhang Xiaobing said.

Taobao, the most prominent eBay-style auction site, said it would be hard to supervise which online sellers have or lack a license. Also, both taobao and eBay are registered companies in Beijing, so they said they should not be affected by the rule.

Shoppers spent 60 billion yuan online last year, up 90 percent from the year prior, Xinhua reported.

## Vision Beijing boards on flights



By Gan Tian

*Vision Beijing, a series of Beijing Olympic promotional films produced by five directors, will be added to the flights of 17 air companies during the one-month countdown to the Olympics.*

*"These films provide our well-traveled world audience with interesting insights into the city's history and culture. I believe our passengers will enjoy it," Patrick Brannelly, vice-presi-*

*dent for Passenger Communications of Emirates Airline, said.*

*The video clips will go to five foreign air companies, including Northwest Airlines, ANA, Singapore Airlines, Emirates and SriLankan Airlines. Some domestic airlines also take part in the event, including Air China, China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines.*

## Bertelsmann book club goes bust

By Vinna Huang

As of Tuesday, the Bertelsmann book club is a memory in China. The chain will not longer accept book orders and will close its online book catalog service, the US book retailer said.

The company announced it will close its 36 book shops in 18 cities by the end of the month.

The publishing giant entered China in 1995, but said the last 13 years saw no profit. Forecasters said that despite Bertelsmann's strength, it cannot weather long term capital deficit.

Insiders said the book club failed because Bertelsmann lacked a target audience equivalent to its European book club backers: middle-aged women and housewives.

When it entered China, Bertelsmann set to target young customers. However, in a generation which prefers net-space virtual communities to more traditional gatherings in meatspace, the platform failed to get a foothold.

More fatal to its model were the club membership rules, which some Chinese readers described as draconian. Club members who did not purchase books frequently enough had their memberships quietly terminated.

The forced purchase agreement drove more and more members away, analysts said.

Book retail is a low-profit industry. Millions of sales require a staff of as many as 700 employees -- it is a joke, industry insider Huang Yuhai said.

The book club will continue to honor its return policy. Applications must be submitted within 15 days of receiving books.

Bertelsmann will refund any non-shipped orders or unused store credit.

Former book club members have until December 25 to log onto the Web site or dial the call center for their account details and balance, and then order a remittance if eligible.



Bertelsmann's closure came as a surprise to Chinese readers.

CFP Photo

## Economy to surpass US by 2035

By Huang Daohen

The economy is expected to overtake the US's by 2035 and double it by mid-century, a new study by a US research institute said.

The study, released Tuesday by a Washington-based research institute, predicts that China's economic growth is driven by domestic demand, not exports.

For that reason, report author Albert Keidel said the strong growth will continue into the 21st century. "China's likely continued success will eventually bring an end to America's global economic preeminence," Keidel said.

The economy has grown at an average annual rate of more than 10 percent over the last decade. The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) currently ranks fourth behind the US, Japan and Germany based on 2007 figures.

## GM, Ford see strong growth

(Reuters) — General Motors Corp and Ford Motor reported strong growth the first half of this year in China.

GM posted a 12.7 percent gain in its first-half 2008 China sales while Ford sold 21 percent more vehicles over the same period.

The higher sales comes as both automakers are struggling in North America where they are cutting jobs, closing factories and reducing production in response to decline in US vehicle sales.

GM and Ford are increasingly relying on emerging markets such as China to offset losses in the US as they restructure their operations to return to profitability.

Auto sales, including trucks and buses, are expected to reach 10 million units this year.

## Domestic oil to buy Awilco

By Huang Daohen

The nation's largest offshore oil company China Oilfield Services agreed to buy Norwegian Awilco Offshore for US \$2.5 billion to increase its drilling capacity and expand overseas markets.

The company will pay 85 kroner (US \$16.6) per share for the Oslo-based company and will become the fourth largest cross-border acquisition by a Chinese company in the oil and gas sector, Xinhua reported.

The deal allows China Oilfield to bring its number of drilling rigs up to 22 from 15, with operations in Europe and Asia.

"Our aim is to become an international oilfield services company with strong competence in global markets by 2010, and that cannot be achieved by organic growth alone," Zhong Hua, the company's CFO, said at a press conference.



# Should Sanya have the first nude beach?

By Annie Wei

A naked beach has been organized in Sanya, Hainan Province.

According to the local newspaper, the beach near the Dadong sea area has 500 naked people at its peak hour. Many curious citizens now visit, cameras in hand, after a post online claimed there were many naked tourists from home and abroad swimming there.

The poster said he found 60 naked men lying on the beach in front of the South China Hotel. Three of his female friends were embarrassed by the scene. However, the nudists, aged 50-60, were indifferent to the stares.

The poster said that local government should take it seriously.

Zhong, a security guard from the South China Hotel, said that some years ago, there were three or four people naked on the beach. When rumors of "nude swimming" spread, many curious tourists showed up.

Another manager from the hotel said guests were unhappy about the scene. However, due to the lack of regulations, nothing could be done.



Whether or not nude beaches should be legal causes controversy among the public.

CFP Photo

## Comment

### Gov says no to skinny dipping

The government will not open a nude beach in that area or in the city anytime soon. If Sanya wishes to open a special nude beach in the future, it will depend on the international status the city reaches and only after serious discussions among experts in the field.

— Lu Zhiyuan, the mayor of Sanya city

### Pollute social moral

Nude swimming does not fit the nation's

social image. The activity is considered the same as porn and gambling. It will pollute the social moral standards and show disrespect to others.

— Old Xu, local official

### Swimming sans bathing suits should be legal

Government or related authoritative bodies should set up a law to recognize public nude beaches to protect nudists' rights.

I am a nudist and have been to many nudist get-togethers. The number of nudists in China is growing but they haven't found a place in society yet due to discrimination.

— Fang Gang, a sexologist

### Spare room for nudists

Authorities could set up special nude swimming areas. This style of leisure activity is considered the best way to be in touch with nature and is admired in other

countries. Opening a special nude swimming beach would boost Sanya's tourism and gain recognition.

— Xiao Huang, from local tourism department

### Let it be

Government should not get involved in such matters. Nude swimmers should find a quieter place instead of popular seaside spots that affect others.

— Lin, a swimmer

# University says it's a bridge too far

By Zhang Dongya

Wuhan University, a well-known university in South China, recently stopped the construction of a bridge in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province which triggered a conflict between the city government and the university.

The Wuhan municipal government planned to build a bridge near Wuhan University as one of the construction projects to deal with traffic problem. It was expected to solve the traffic jam problem on the city's Second Ring Road and more than 100 thousand citizens would benefit from its construction, the municipal government, said.

However, to Wuhan University, the gigantic construction represented a nightmare. The bridge was divided into two sections, with the north part going through the side entrance of the university. Once the bridge is built, it will have large expanses of bridge across the side entrance at about a 10 meters off the ground.

The construction was halted due to university opposition last month.



The bridge construction has been halted by the government.

CFP Photo

"The whole scene and beauty of Wuhan University will be spoiled," a student said, "And we do not want to see a bridge in place of cherry blossoms."

"The point is, for such a big construction project involving our university, why not ask our opinion?" Liu Yuzhou, vice director of the Basic Construction Department of Wuhan University, said.

According to environmental protection laws, a big municipal project must undergo environmental assessment in advance and ask

related units their opinions.

Wuhan University students published an article titled "Seven Deadly Sins of the Viaduct" on the Internet, and later citizens replied criticizing the university for a lack of overall situation consciousness.

Wuhan University has a long history which can be traced back to the Qing Dynasty over one hundred years ago. Many leaders and statesmen home and abroad have visited the university and it was appraised as "the most beautiful university in China."

## Comment

### Counter plan needed

We have never been against construction. However, it will ruin the scenery to build a viaduct near a university. There should be some other counter plans. In Shanghai, in order to protect Fudan University, the municipal government changed its bridge plan to have the structure built underground in 2005.

— Li Guang, director of Development Research Academy of Wuhan University

### Make decisions democratically

The government should deal with the university's concerns, and also learn how to make decisions and policies democratically. A good environment is very important to a university.

Set aside the view of education development or city plan procedures, it is the local government who is not showing consideration. Before making plans, they should investigate all related situations and ask for public opinion.

— Xiong Bingqi, teacher at Shanghai Jiaotong University

### Leave it to law

Since Wuhan University is under the State Education Ministry, the university and the city have equal power in China. Both have been battling each other for a long time, with no concrete results. They should turn to the law, and let the local legislature judge the dispute and make legal decisions to solve the problem.

— Xu Guangmu, commentator for the Nanfang Daily



# Go east, young actress, go east!

By Han Manman

Having starred in more than forty television and film projects in China over the past five years, American actress Kerry Berry Brogan almost "monopolized" all the western female roles in Chinese films in recent years. Her extensive screen exposure earned her a name given by Chinese netizens – "the hottest western face in China."

## The secret of "One-Take Brogan"

Before her interview with *Being Today*, she had just finished a public welfare film titled "Smile Wristlets" where she plays an American nurse who comes to Beijing to be a volunteer. A few days from now, she will fly to Hengdian studios in Zhejiang Province to shoot her next film.

This kind of busy life as an actress for Brogan can be described in one word – enjoyable. "I never dreamed I could shoot so many films in China and the roles would be so different and so interesting," Brogan said, as she recounts how she once played a French woman, a German, a Brit, a Muscovite and

even persons of mixed racial ancestry and how the roles varied from princess to reporter to spy.

Directors who cooperate with Brogan have nick-named her "one-take Brogan."

"I have three secrets for getting it right the first time," Brogan said. She said the first secret is enough preparation, in terms of line preparation and including analyzing the role's character and the story background. The second secret is creating the role and owning it, "then, no matter what happens during the shoot, I cannot be distracted." And the third secret is "to design a color and a 'power animal' for the role." Brogan said that for each character, she thinks about a color and a representative "power animal" that could help her slide more easily into the role and better express her emotions.

## On being an actress

For Brogan, entering the performing arts circle in China was accidental.

Born in Newton, Massachusetts, she started performing drama



Kerry Berry Brogan

Photo provided by Kerry Berry Brogan

when she was very young. She first came to China at the age of 16 on a cultural exchange program. From that time on, she became interested in the Chinese culture and Chinese language.

After graduating college, some of Brogan's friends entered the Hollywood scene. "One of those

friends was my high school boyfriend. It's inspiring to me to see how well he's doing now. "But Brogan chose another way ... go to China again.

At the age of 18, Brogan came to Beijing and applied to study performing arts at The Central Academy of Drama (CAD). The teacher informed her that she would need to first pass the HSK (Chinese Language Equivalency Test) and then participate in the school entrance audition. "I only had four months to get my Chinese good enough. I studied with a private tutor for hours during the day and taught English in the evenings to support myself. It was a pretty intense period," Brogan said. Later, she became the first foreign face in the acting department at CAD.

During her studies, she got a chance to play an extra and with that small exposure, she attracted the attention of a director and that began her acting career.

## Loving Beijing

Being in Beijing for so many years, Brogan has thought often

of returning to the US to hone her acting skills. For a period of time, her parents also wanted her to come home, "They've been very supportive but they also think it's pretty difficult for a girl to work in a foreign country on her own, especially as an actress," Brogan said, adding, "As for me, I miss them all the time, but I'm grateful my experience here has made me stronger. And if I went back, I would so miss the life in Beijing."

In her spare time, Brogan likes to go around to the Beijing hutongs, sometimes taking her digital video camera to do some filming. She said this is one way to experience life in Beijing.

As for the future, Brogan currently has a few plans underway. In addition to continuing her martial arts training, she is writing a television screenplay with other Westerners that they hope to make into a mini-series. She has two filming projects lined up for the second half of this year and a "secret project". "Until the details are finalized," Brogan said with a furtive smile, "it's still a secret."

## Hairspray salutes the 1960s movie

By Gan Tian

*Hairspray's* leading performers, Brooklynn Purner and Taylor Frey, arrived in Beijing on Monday to prepare for the musical's July 25 debut.

The musical tells the story of a plump teenager Tracy who dreams to dance on a local TV dance show. When she gets the chance, she becomes famous and launches a campaign to racially integrate the show. Purner, 28, in the chunky role of Tracy Turnblad, showed up together with Frey at the press conference. Purner sang the song "Good Morning Baltimore."

Purner said the musical was a social commentary on the injustices happening in 1960's American society. She said she could truly identify with the character, Tracy. "We care about human equality and we should treat all people the same way, though we all come from different walks of life," she said.

Frey plays Link Larkin. The 22-year-old actor went to the audition in March, and was chosen by the director to play the leading male role. Frey has four or five years dancing and singing experience. He mentioned Purner was very similar to Tracy Turnblad in the play. "She is quite active and very positive," he said. Frey is also a big fan of Chinese pop music. He said he liked Taiwanese pop star Leehom Wang and the teenage-oriented group SHE.

Purner was never concerned about her weight and body shape at all. Instead, she showed great confidence and a positive attitude towards her life. When she was asked her opinion on boys, she said, "Actually I have a boyfriend who is even thinner than Link – but taller. I think those kinds of boys like me."



A scene from Hairspray

Photo provided by CPAA

The two actors were coming from Salt Lake City, which held the 2002 Winter Olympics. "We were very excited then, and were so eager to see what was going to happen, and we are so lucky to be able to perform in China at this time," Purner said.

Frey also said it was a big chance for him to see what the country looks like. "It is really a good opportunity to show the world your culture and what you guys have got," he said.

The pair was very impressed by the audience's warm welcome. "When we toured in Shanghai, the audience got up and danced with us," Purner said. "We really had a good time."

"Hairspray" is a musical produced by Marc Shaiman, with lyrics by Scott Wittman and Shaiman and script by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan. It first was first seen on the big screen in the 1988 John Waters production. The songs include 1960s-style dance music and downtown rhythm and blues.

## Canadian model murdered in Shanghai

By Han Manman

A young Canadian model was found dead in her Shanghai apartment building Monday, and Shanghai police said Wednesday they suspect foul play. An investigation into the case is under way.

A news department official of the Shanghai's Public Security Bureau said police got an emergency call early Monday about the death of Diana O'Brien, 23.

O'Brien entered the country from Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, on June 24. Her body was found in the stairwell of the apartment by her roommate and fellow model Charlotte Wood. They both worked for a Shanghai-based modeling company, identified in media reports as the JH Model Agency. O'Brien had worked as a model for years.

According to the *Shanghai Morning Post*, everything had been stolen from the apartment,

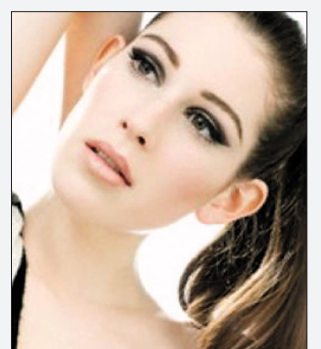
including the two girl's cameras and laptops.

There are reports O'Brien wanted to work as a photo model, as she had previously done in Milan, Italy, but instead was given work to promote whiskey in bars. O'Brien's friends in Canada told a local newspaper she had told them she didn't like the job and wanted to cut short her three-month contract and come home.

Her boyfriend Joe Berry told the *Victoria Times Colonist* O'Brien had told him she never felt safe and never went anywhere alone.

"We are just waiting for answers at this time. It's very difficult. She wasn't into drugs or alcohol or anything like that, so you can't think it was anything but foul play," Berry said.

An on-line description of the JH Model Agency said it was "one of the leading modeling agencies



Diana O'Brien

Photo provided by Shanghai Morning Post

in east China for over 100 models" and "all of the models come from different countries."

However, its official Web site [jh-model.com](http://jh-model.com) could not be accessed at press time. The company's listed phone number is always busy, suggesting an invalid number.



# ONS volunteers ready for the Games

By Zheng Lu

Hearing the news that they would be visiting the Chang'an Theatre and enjoy Peking Opera, the Olympic News Service (ONS) volunteers from abroad cheered loudly at the International Centre, Communication University of China.

All of the 292 volunteers from foreign universities are now in Beijing with the arrival of the last group from Newcastle University yesterday.

The volunteers come from 10 universities in three countries: the Missouri School of Journalism, North Carolina University, Emerson College, Ithaca College, the University of Iowa, Purdue University, Newcastle University, the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Tech-

nology and Sheffield Hallam University. Six universities in Beijing are boarding them.

The students were tested and selected to be Olympic volunteers in February and March by BOCOG. The test included debates and dictation, Jason Myles, a sophomore-to-be of Purdue University said to *Beijing Today*. "I am the only selected ONS volunteer in our class. I had no related volunteer work experience," he said.

The 292 students have signed a letter of commitment for volunteer services for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad. They will work at appointed venues from August 8 to 26. Some of them will stay longer to continue their service for the Beijing Paralympic Games in September.

BOCOG provided the ONS volunteers cell phone cards with 120-yuan credit per month. "Only the foreign volunteers have been issued SIM cards," Xu Mengyao, officer of the ONS, said. The volunteers will report news information to the venues' media center by phone.

They are required to pay their other expenses during their stay in China. The cost is still considerable, even with the Chinese universities covering room and board. "We could spend nearly US \$4,000 during these seven weeks. It's a large sum of money. I hope it's worth it," Traci Gillig, a mass media student with press experience, said.

The Media Operations Department of BOCOG said some vol-



A volunteer tries on his jumper.

Photo by Zheng Lu

unteers who arrived a few weeks earlier already took their posts. All the ONS volunteers will soon be in place as the venues open.

## Romanian sells art for Sichuan

By Zheng Lu

Romanian artist Manuela Botis is selling her pictures to help rebuild Sichuan. The exhibition and sale began in the Embassy of Romania last Saturday.

Manuela Botis visited in 2005 to attend the Beijing International Art Biennale. During her stay, she visited Huangshan Mountain, the Great Wall and the Temple of Heaven. The visit left a great impression on her, she said, and Chinese culture continues to inspire her.

"It was the most wonderful trip in my life. I love China as if it were my second homeland," she said.

Botis decided to do something when she heard about the Sichuan earthquake on TV.

"I was very sad at the news, as other Romanians were. My family and I wanted to help," Botis said. She has brought 12 pictures drawn by her and her father Teodor Botis, a member of the Romania Arts Council. Two pictures will be donated to the exhibition of Olympic Fine Arts 2008. The other 10 will be auctioned during the Olympics and the collected money donated for reconstruction of Sichuan.

Some of the pictures contain Chinese elements. The picture titled Temple of Heaven is drawn on an octagonal board and made of mixed materials. Its view is an overhead shot of the Temple of Heaven. The circle in the middle of the board is the roof of the temple. The octagon is made by overlapping two square boards from different angles. The circle and the square represent the heaven and the earth in Chinese tradition.

Inside the circle, Botis pasted and dyed soybeans and threads on the picture. Botis said the soybeans represent generations and prosperity, the reasons why ancient emperors prayed at the Temple of Heaven.

Viorel Isticioaia, ambassador of Romania, said at the exhibition that Botis's decision was significant and more Romanian artists should follow her lead. He also said that more aid supplies from Romania will be sent to Sichuan in August.

## Rock opera Aida to tour China

By He Jianwei

Elton John and Tim Rice's rock opera *Aida* will start its China tour in 12 cities from this September.

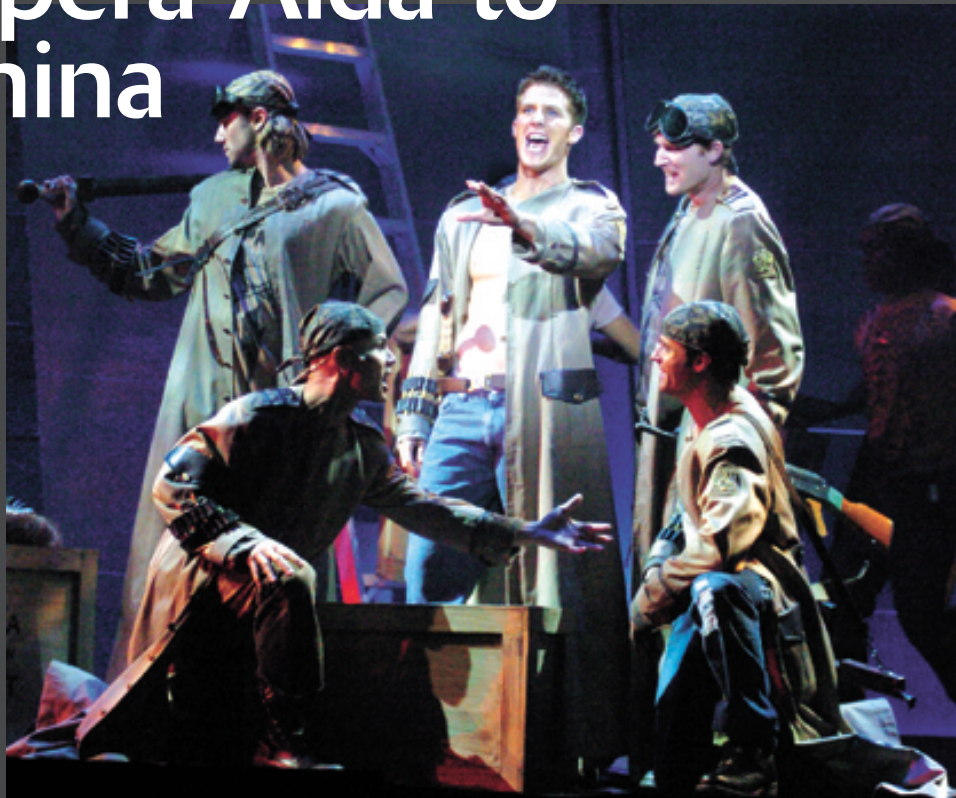
*Aida* is a modern musical about classic themes of love, loyalty and betrayal based on the opera of the same name by Giuseppe Verdi, with a Tony and Grammy award-winning score by John and Rice, their first collaboration since writing the music of *The Lion King*.

Casey Elliott, the male lead in the musical, said Friday their *Aida* is not opera, but a pop musical with spoken language and all kinds of recognizable song types. The musical is described as having urban-based rhythm and blues, gospel-inspired songs, ballads and "Crocodile Rock songs".

*Aida* chronicles the love triangle between *Aida*, a Nubian princess stolen from her country, Amneris, an Egyptian princess, and Radames, the Egyptian soldier they both love.

Elliott, who plays Radames, showed a solid voice that could handle both the gentle duets with *Aida* and louder songs with more intense demands.

He first played in *Aida* in



Elton John's *Aida* is full of dialogue and many recognizable songs.

Photo provided by New Alliance

2006. His wife told him the play was auditioning for Radames only days before the deadline.

"We lived in Utah, but the audition was in Los Angeles. I drove 12 hours to go to LA and audition," he said. A few days after his first audition in LA, he got a notice for the next audition in

New York.

While this *Aida* is not the Verdi opera, the story conveys the same message. "The theme throughout the show is that love is timeless. In our culture, we have Romeo and Julia. In China, you have similar love stories," he said.

The musical opened on

Broadway at the Palace Theatre in March 2000 and ended its four-and-a-half year run in September 2004.

*Aida* received four Tony Awards including Best Music/Lyrics and the 2000 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album.

## Foreign gallery finds contemporary art a sound investment

By He Jianwei

"Although some collectors in New York worry the price of contemporary Chinese art will fall, I still believe the price will continue to climb," Tom Finkelpearl, executive director of Queens Museum of Art, said last Saturday.

The group exhibition "Reason's Clue" opened its tour exhibition at Lin and Keng Gallery last Saturday. It will head for the Queens

Museum on September 28.

The Queens Museum of Art is a major art museum and educational center in the Queens district of New York City. Finkelpearl said the city has four Chinatowns: in Manhattan, the people speak Cantonese, the two in Brooklyn are home to Taiwan Province natives and Queens is a big mix of mainlanders.

"Queens is home to 138 lan-

guages. The first language is English, the second Spanish and the third Chinese," he said.

Almost 10 years ago, the Queens Museum of Art had Cai Guoqing's solo exhibition, its first solo exhibition by a Chinese artist. "The most successful Chinese solo exhibition was Yue Minjun's this year," he said.

As the country becomes one of the strongest economies, its con-

temporary art is booming. "Some people believe the market price for contemporary art is too high, too expensive, but I disagree. The stronger the economy, the greater the artists in this country," he said.

Finkelpearl said Yue is a good example. "Yue achieved a new record in the Hong Kong's auction market when his piece sold for US \$6 million," he said.

Although the art market

remains hot, he said China is only one of the art centers in the world. "Beijing cannot be the only center for contemporary art. There are always around five other art centers," he said.

"Most of the overseas Chinese artists are coming back as the whole market goes global. For example, Li Mingwei, previously an artist in Queens, returned several years ago," he said.



# Foreign disc jockeys dig Beijing



Klubbrounge's opening night

Photos provided by Klubbrounge

By Gan Tian

Klubbrounge opened at Sanlitun the middle of last month, and invited French disc jockey Philippe Ortega to host the new venue and play music.

Ortega arrived in Beijing at the beginning of last month. He signed a three-year contract with the new bar Klubbrounge. He said he had a clear idea what music customers would want.

"The club is extremely sexy. Look at its French style: the decor of bubbles in champagne glasses, the dense red colors," he said. "I wanted to bring an all-new trance storm to the clubbers, utilizing the unique trance mixing style to bring the nights of passion to a climax."

Ortega had been playing music in Shanghai for three and half years. He was critical of the city's disc jockeys. "They never think about the music," he said. However, he still maintained there were talented people in the field.

Ortega said Beijing is more fashionable than Shanghai, which is one of the main

things that drew him here. Jason Linderman had been playing music in a local pub in Wudaokou for years.

Though he was only a junior college student, he had his own style and an understanding of music. "The Wudaokou area is totally different from other places. It is filled with a lot of trendy student types," he said. So Linderman would pull out all the stops to introduce pop to local students.

One of the dreams of many disc jockeys is to cut an album of their own club mixes. Ortega is living that dream. He said he would invite his friends, both at home and abroad, to make a mix disc. "I hope it will be sold to European and Japanese markets," he said.

Klubbrounge, as a larger club, has the ability to support Ortega, but Linderman was not so lucky. The club he was serving offered no financial support to help him realize his lofty dreams.

However, he never gave up. "After I graduate I will find some bigger pubs which can support me to do my own CDs," he said.



DJ Philippe Ortega

## Playboy magazine in China?

By Gan Tian / Zhang Dongya

Rumors have it that *Playboy* is going to be entering the Chinese market. The National Copyright Administration has not responded to the rumor at present.

An Internet media source, STNN (stnn.cc), reported at the beginning of this year that due to the Olympics, there will be 500,000 visitors in the city. Some of the

magazines and newspapers banned on the Chinese market like *Playboy* will be made available to readers during the Olympics according to STNN.

*Playboy* tried to enter the Shanghai market in early 2004. The *Playboy* company and a Shanghai local company held a press conference in the end of 2004 to announce that the adult magazine *Gentleman's Club*

would be released in Shanghai. However, two days later, the Shanghai government said that it was never accepted legally.

*Playboy* has been published in 18 countries, but remains banned in China. The *Playboy* clubs have set up 40 branches in seven other countries. When the last branch was closed in the Philippines in 1991, the company suffered.

### Event

#### Booklaunch – Serve the People

As a freelance journalist and food writer living in Beijing, Jen Lin-Liu already had a ringside seat for the city's exploding food scene. When she decided to enroll in a local cooking school – held in an unheated classroom with nary a measuring cup in sight – she jumped into the ring herself. In *Serve the People*, Lin-Liu gives a memorable and mouthwatering cook's tour of today's China as she progresses from cooking student to noodle-stall and dumpling-house apprentice to intern at a chic Shanghai restaurant. Jen Lin-Liu is a Chinese-American writer and the founder of the cooking school Black Sesame Kitchen.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 15, 7:30 pm

Tel: 6586 9507

#### Contemporary Artists of Songzhuang Village

The Chinese Culture Club guides visitors to Songzhuang Village, renowned as the country's largest contemporary artist community settled in farmers' houses. The Chinese Culture Club makes appointments with a handful of artists who will allow visitors into their rural homes that have been transformed into studios. Each brick house is similar with planted vegetables and barking dogs, but the rooms inside are various studios containing art works in different styles.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 19, 2-6 pm

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341

#### Young professionals' charity poker tournament

Join the AmCham Young Professionals Group for a fun, poker-filled afternoon to benefit the Beijing Summer Camp for Sichuan Orphans.

Where: Goose N'Duck, S1, Green Lake International Tower, Chaoyang District

When: July 19, 3-7 pm

Tel: 5928 3045

(By He Jianwei)

7

Debate



Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



## 洋腔论见

文化差异的碰撞与融合



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7

Debate

BEIJING TODAY



# Bilingual lost and found service starts online



Lost and found office in Terminal 3 of Capital International Airport.

CFP Photo

By Jackie Zhang

A lost and found service in both Chinese and English run by the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau entered service last Sunday. It is available through a 24-hour telephone hotline and on its Web site.

So far, the police have set up 1,020 service stations in police stations, organizations, schools, companies and factories. There are five stations around the Bird's Nest (National Stadium). For disabled persons, athletes, journalist, and Olympic officials, police staff also provide personal visits if it is inconvenient to come to the office.

On the first day of the service,

there were 108 telephones reporting lost articles and 73 reports on the Web site. As of Thursday night, there were 172 people posting notices looking for their lost goods and 72 people reporting found goods. But, so far, only one lost ID card and a hand bag have been returned to its owner.

The lost and found office of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau was set up 51 years ago. It is the only non-profit governmental department providing a lost and found service. The start of a bilingual service both through phone and the Internet marks the launch of the lost and found ser-

vice for the Games.

In the Public Security Bureau's lost and found office, there are hundreds of keys, a variety of cameras, watches, ID cards and different certificates. Chen Weimin, a policeman from the office, said that people often lose notebook computers, keys and cards. "The Forbidden City and the Summer Palace ranks first among all the places where people lose things in Beijing."

"From people registering lost things to owners coming to collect the goods, the whole procedure is followed up by the police," Wang Xiaobing, vice captain of

the security administration team, said. People can also log onto the Web site to register what they find or lose.

"Whenever you lose something, you can learn if someone has found it by logging onto the Web site and applying to retrieve it," Wang said. The police update and enrich the online information every 24 hours. Police stations will keep lost articles for one month and then transfer them to the security administration department.

Telephone hotline: 6204 1111

Web site: bjgaj.gov.cn/swzl

Where: 1A, Xinkang Street, Xicheng District

## Banking hours extended during Olympics

By Jackie Zhang

Banks, including Bank of Beijing, China Citic Bank and China Merchants Bank, recently released new business hour schedules with extended service for the Olympic rush.

From next Saturday to September 16, 33 branches of Bank of Beijing located around key Olympic areas will extend their business hours. The banks will close at 7:30 pm rather than the usual 5:30 pm. At least two counters will remain open for service and a guest service manager will provide consultation services.

Some of the China Construction Bank outlets will close a half hour later than usual starting July 24. From August, 40 branches of China Everbright Banks will close at 7:30 pm. Some of the Citic Banks in Olympic areas will extend their business hours to 8 pm. Shanghai Pudong Development Banks around Olympic venues will prolong their business hours by two hours during work days and three hours during weekends.

## Multi-lingual service center for Olympics launched

By Jackie Zhang

The Multi-lingual Service Center for the Olympic Games opened Monday at Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU). During the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the volunteers in the center will provide 24-hour services to foreign guests and athletes in 44 languages.

The languages cover almost all the languages in the Olympic Family, including Icelandic, Sinhala and Hausa. Whenever foreigners meet with language difficulties, they can ask for help by telephone or through online

cameras.

Besides the 24-hour telephone hotline service, there is an emergency interpretation team in the center for possible urgent needs. In emergency conditions, the team members will give on-the-spot service. The center can provide conferences with simultaneous interpretation and document translations.

The 260 volunteers in the center are strictly selected, mainly from the teachers and graduate students of BFSU. Many professors aged 70 to 80 applied to be volunteers as well.



Volunteer booths are seen in all popular areas.

CFP Photo

## Getting greener series of events kicks off

By Annie Wei

Greening the Beige (GtB) is a collective for artists and performers who celebrate eco-minded thinking. The aim of GtB is to foster community awareness regarding eco-positive and responsible city living, while at the same time connect creative thinkers, socially responsible organizations, and other supporters for a "greener" city.

GtB starts today and will travel around the city for seven days offering a series of performances, speakers, films and art displays. It will present green events and eco-savvy activities across Beijing for one full week, along easy-access public transportation lines. The essential aim of this event is to reflect how "green" it already is and to inspire city's residents to get

"greener" every day.

Attendees will find a lot of events including presentations, an eco-fashion show, a photo and painting exhibition, green market, and more education on green research.

The main venues include the Yugongyishan Club and Club Obiwan (clubobiwan.com.cn). For more details and information, log onto greeningthebeige.org.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

**I need to look for a new apartment from now until August 26 when my current work contract ends. How is the current market and can you offer any good suggestions?**

The Olympics will barely be over August 26 and the city will be overflowing with domestic tourists, so a lot of landlords will still demand the higher Olympic rent fees they are getting. You might have to pay slightly higher unless you can wait a little longer or try to talk to your landlord for a short extension, or renew your contract and ask your landlord not to hike your rent.

**I lived beside the sea in my hometown and I really miss it sometimes. I would like to go to the seaside near Beijing. Is there such a place?**

Dalian is very clean, the seafood is good and cheap and it is the height of the season in August.

Qingdao is only six hours from Beijing by bullet train, and it is an interesting place with nice bars by the beach, interesting architecture and tree-lined streets. You can go to the Willy Wonka-style beer factory for a 50-yuan entry fee and you do not need to be part of a tour. Qingdao is hosting the Olympic sailing event in August if you are interested in that sort of activity.

Qinhuangdao is also a good choice as it is presenting the Olympic football match. Beidaihe is one of the most attractive summer seaside resorts in the country and home to many historic sites.

**Xinjiang food is very delicious. Do you know a good Xinjiang restaurant around Lido or Wangjing?**

Yunzhi restaurant

Where: No. 10 Hongxia lu, Jiuxian qiao, Chaoyang district

Tel: 64353336

Kaximu restaurant

Where: the first floor of Wangjing market, No.6 Nanhunanlu, Chaoyang district

Tel: 6473 7387

You can look online. Many venues are indexed at this comprehensive site: [hao123.com](http://hao123.com).

**Red Cliff, the Chinese film, is playing this Thursday and I am very interested in the story. Do you know something about it?**

It is an epic that recreates the story surrounding the legendary Battle of Red Cliff that took place immediately prior to the Three Kingdoms period. *Red Cliff* is to be released in two parts throughout Asia, with the first part premiering this Thursday and the second part in January 2009. The film is directed by John Woo and stars Tony Leung, Takeshi Kaneshiro and Zhang Fengyi.

(By Bai Jingnan)





House Rules, LEDs



Four Vases, oil on canvas



Walkway, oil on liner

# Art in Mo

## 8 artists journey to Ch

### → Rose Finn-Kelcey: A sign of the times

When she returned to Britain, Rose Finn-Kelcey realized she wanted to fashion work that focused on her understanding of China in relation to the British-Chinese culture in London.

"One of the things I found most extraordinary in China was to see a country hurtling into the 21st century with all the new developments, but at the same time so rooted in the past," she said.

During her travels, she was always on the look out for shop signs, particularly neon signs that were wildly elaborate and popular.

"In Kunming, I was excited to come across streets selling commercial signage. Characters of all size made out of acrylic, polystyrene, tin and brass, hung in shop fronts open to the street," she said.

After she came back to Britain, she spent time scrutinizing the menus in China Town and came across a menu outside one of the restaurants which said "Sad and Lonely – set meal for one."

"It made me laugh. I thought that describes most of our lives. It seemed really profound. It's quite something to actually own up to that, to go into a restaurant alone and order a meal," she said.

### → Tony Bevan: East meets west

In China, Tony Bevan met a Chinese artist, Gao Xiang, and talked with the local art students about the way that he worked with material. "I never really understood when I was a student the difference between the colors. For example, black. There are so many blacks, including those carbonized from wood or animal bone," Bevan said.

He spent a lot of time to look, observe and experience a situation or landscape. Bevan took a few black and white photographs, but did not create any pieces when he was in China.

"I found a strong feeling, once out of the cities and into the countryside, in particular when visiting temples. There's a poetic reverie, as you walk through the forest," he said.

When he went back to Britain and went to the places like the British Museum to see Chinese manuscripts and paintings, "My view of the context from which they were made and of the ideas with which they are dealing has changed," he said.

"I think it can be seen how Chinese and in particular Eastern thinking has moved into Western art as well," he said.

### → Dennis Morris: Heaven can wait

"Capture moments in time" is Dennis Morris's technique in his photographs. For instance, he made one particular image which was made of two pieces. Morris visited Tibet. One was a landscape in Tibet he shot of countryside and mountains and another was an image of a group of monks walking across the square in Lhasa.

"When I got back, I was influenced greatly by the spiritual feel of Tibet and the Buddhist philosophy of everything being possible,

so I created this image where it seems as though these monks are walking across the lake and the river, as if they are walking on top of the water," he said.

The journey to Tibet was unforgettable for him, because he collapsed from altitude sickness. When he stepped off the plane and got to the hotel, Morris sat down, sighed, "and then next thing I knew there I was ... my wife screaming, daughter crying and people pumping my chest," he said.

When he came around, he had a terrible headache, from the lack of oxygen to the brain. "It was scary and not the dying bit! I turned round to my wife, and I said to her, 'Why didn't you take a picture? Yoko did, when John Lennon got shot, when he was on the floor!'" he said.

### → Satch Hoyt: A material boy

Satch Hoyt worked with many varied materials, from cotton to boxing gloves, to dominoes, to sugar. Sports, in particular boxing and martial arts, fascinated him the most. "In China, I did revisit the topic of sports which in my practice is an ongoing investigation," he said.

Hoyt executed an installation which employs 160 meters of fabrics. The idea of resourcing was an interesting element in implementing his work in China.

When he first arrived in Beijing, he was taken to the Silk Street, "which is not really the place where I should have started. It's where all the tourists go," he said.

Then a Chinese artist suggested that Hoyt visit a fabric market in the south. "I spent a lot of time over there absolutely fascinated by it. I do have this history and relationship with fabric and textiles, because both my mother and sister work with fabric. My mother was a dress maker. My sister is a designer and she makes clothes," he said.

He sourced red silk brocade with dragons, because "the dragon is very symbolic in Chinese culture," he said.

He also finished an installation called "Enter the Dragon." It is made of 25 silk brocade heavy bags suspended from the ceiling by chains, creating an isolated space in the arena, where the viewers are invited to enter and ascend a stairway podium. And placed on the top step is a black lacquered stool, under which an 18-inch bass speaker is placed.

"The viewer in my mind is transformed into a champion – he or she rises to the top but is followed by an inevitable decline," he said.

### → Susan Hiller: a picture is worth a 1,000 words

Susan Hiller could not speak or understand Chinese, so she made a work about what was lost in translation and what was gained in translation.

"Reading Chinese novels in translation was a very important part of my trip, because being blocked off from language, this illusion of hearing Chinese voices was really important," Hiller said.

She painted the colors from three books – Lu Xun's *The True*



The True Story of Ah Q by Lu Xun, ink on handmade paper



Head and Neck, acrylic, pigment and charcoal on canvas



Lively up Yourself Yellow, C Print Crystal archival



Wushu Warrior, mixed media



Saving Daylight, steel wire basket, dud light bulbs



# tion

## ina and take home artistic memories

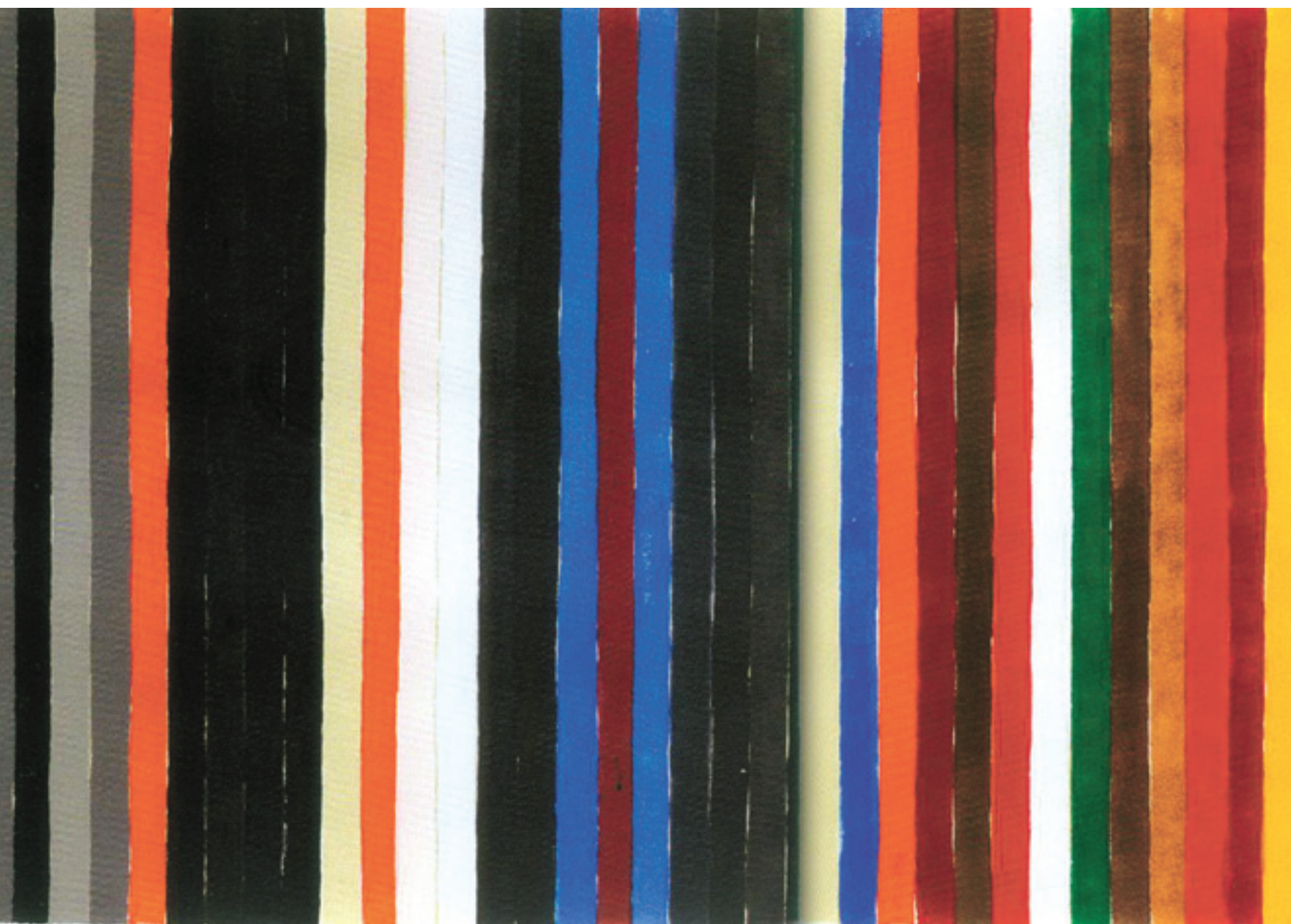
By He Jianwei

When we think of Joseph Mallord William Turner's travels to Venice or David Hockney's first visit to Los Angeles in 1963, we are reminded that Turner helped invent our whole idea of Venice and Hockney's early paintings of California seem forever encoded in the mythology of the US West.

Eight artists from Britain travelled to China at the invitation of The Red Mansion Foundation, which was set up in

1999 to promote dialogue between east and west through art. After they returned to Britain, each artist created a work inspired by their travels across China.

The exhibition, entitled "8 Visions, One Dream," is "a project designed to create opportunities for people from the east and west to meet and plant the seeds of understanding," Nicolette Kwok, director of The Red Mansion Foundation, said.



Center stage

Story of Ah Q, Wang Shou's *Playing for Thrills* and Zhang Xianliang's *Grass Soup* – very painstakingly and slowly, onto scroll paper.

"Perhaps the translations are not even describing what one would perceive as the same color, because of the subtleties – when we say 'red' that covers a number of different hues that the word might represent," she said.

→ **Lisa Milroy:**

### Color my world

"Color in China made me aware of how I used tonal relationships as an expression of time – shadows representing the past and light the present moment," Lisa Milroy said.

She thought in China, color was unmediated by light and shadow. "Ancient monuments, famous beauty spots and landscapes alike, did not generate for me as they do in other places, a scene of the past. The Great Wall struck me as magnificently eternal rather than old," she said.

So, it was no surprise for her to find the Marriott Hotel in Shanghai located on Tomorrow Square.

→ **Richard Wentworth:**

### Mother Nature's majesty

"The best art feels inevitable, a bit like experience itself," Richard Wentworth said.

He has a deep relation with China. His grandfather survived the First World War and came to China to run offices for Shell in Fuzhou, Shantou and Xiamen. "So my Mum's childhood was essentially Chinese and British until 1934," he said.

Wentworth first toured around China with his wife and children in 1986 for six weeks, mostly by train. When he travelled China again, he immediately headed westwards to Kashgar.

"It's one of those spaces which makes you alert to big natural forces which humans contend with – mountains, wind, snow, dust and heat," he said.

→ **Paul Winstanley:**

### Outsider looking in

Paul Winstanley spent a whole week in Huangshan staying in a hotel near the peak. He painted some images from Huangshan at dawn.

"You can see the clouds coming down from above that are reminiscent of classical Chinese painting," he said.

He believed the way to create was through the eyes of a traveler, an observer and outsider like he was. "Because on one level, the most you can get is a surface view of things – you are not part of Chinese society and never could be even if you spoke the language, which I didn't," he said.

He filmed and took pictures and then used them to reflect his experience of being there.

### Building Bridges: 8 Visions, One Dream

Where:  
Today Art  
Museum, 32,  
Baiziwang Lu, Chaoyang District  
When:  
10 am – 5 pm, July  
4 – 17,  
Tel: 5876 0600  
ext 6035

BEIJING TODAY

Editors: Yu Shanshan Li Jing Designer: Yang Gen



# Happiness is a dream for all



## New collection tackles a lonely generation

By He Jianwei

*Granta*, a literary magazine that publishes some of the world's finest writers on the toughest subjects, put out issue number 101 this Spring. In June, a young Chinese writer published a similar book to collect the latest works of writers born in the 1980s and to promote the new writing in China.

Zhang Yueran, an established young writer, edited the book *Carp: Solitude* (206pp, Jiangsu Literature and Art Publishing House, 25 yuan).

*Granta* published the early works of many writers who later became well known, including A. A. Milne, Michael Frayn, Stevie Smith, Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath. However, in China, there is not a themed book to promote new writing. "We have a responsibility to new writers in China," Zhang wrote in the preface.

*Carp: Solitude* is the first of a series. The book includes essays, novels, interviews and photographs reflecting one theme – solitude. Zhang collected the works of young authors born after the 1980s from the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, Malaysia and Japan.

The last chapter is the most important part in the book containing new novels of the young writers, including Nanae Aoyama, the winner of the 136th Akutagawa Prize for promising new writers of serious fiction in 2006, Hu Shuwen, a Taiwanese writer and regarded as the most promising young writer in 2006 by China Times, An Yiru, the bestseller on iteration of the Chinese classic poetry, and Li Zishu, a promising novelist from Malaysia.

In Aoyama's new novel, the author describes a young man's unrequited love for a young woman and a middle-aged woman's eagerness to journey to Paris. Aoyama depicts the solitude among people of different ages.

Hu rethinks the youth's solitude and the loneliness of the elderly, telling the readers they can save each other from the loneliness.

Besides the stories, the book includes interviews with young Chinese born in the 1980s, who have lonely jobs, such as a projectionist in a film theater, a carnival employee and a nurse in a mental hospital.

"I decided to make this series, because I felt lonely. But during the making of this book, I saw more lonely people. The book is dedicated to solitude, the strong but tender enemy. The book is also dedicated to you, the readers. I'm fighting with my solitude and so are you. We will find that solitude is like a bridge bringing us together," Zhang wrote.

By Charles Zhu

Everyone dreams of a happy life. Psychologists say that if you think you are happy, then you are happy. However, many say that they are not happy and others say they are always happy – whatever happens to them.

Sonja Lyubomirsky has a scientific answer to the happiness question in her book *The How of Happiness: A Scientific Approach to Getting the Life You Want* (366pp, Penguin, US \$25.95).

The author, a professor of the University of California, Riverside, says she believes "a full 40 percent of the capacity for happiness is within your power to change." The gold ring of happiness is yours for the taking, she says.

Positive psychology, a theory put forward by Martin Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania, combines the humanist approach with methodologies now allowed by high-speed computers and brain scanners. His theory maintains that a given list of traits, behaviors and conditions will lead not only to mental health, but also to a good life. The list covers wisdom, courage, justice, transcendence and temperance. What it describes as character strengths includes creativity, love of learning and curiosity.

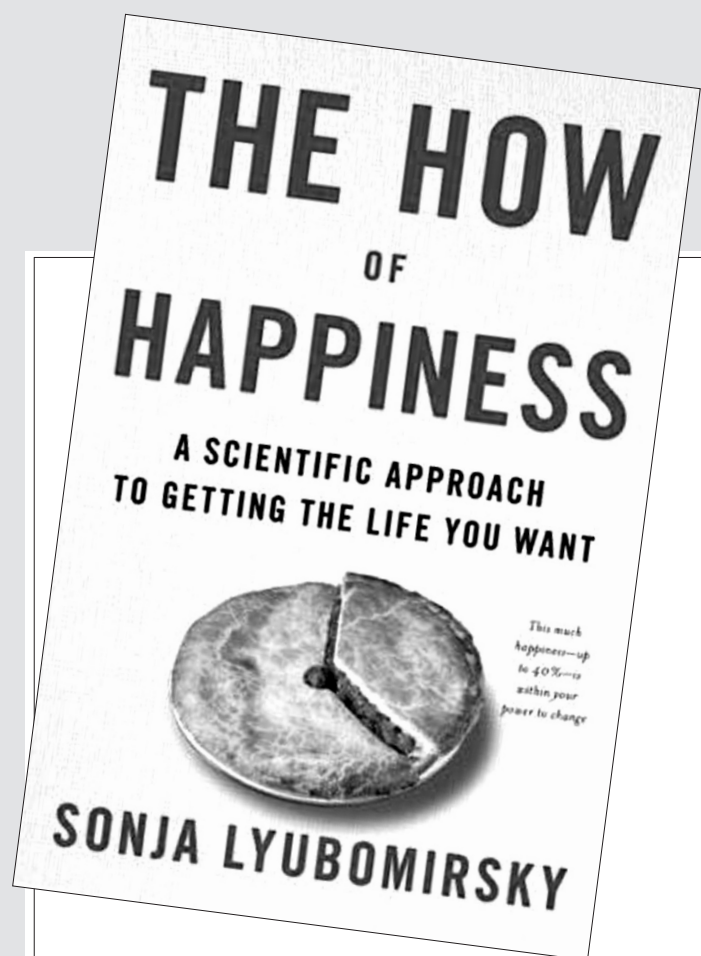
These psychologists hold that good character can be cultivated, leading to a good life, a life not of easy money and fast women – and men – but a life of self-actualization, contentment and fulfillment.

Professor Lyubomirsky created a three-piece pie chart. Half the pie is made up of genetics, a sliver by circumstance and the rest by you and your willpower. By genetics, the author means by a set of shared temperament instead of a known set of genes. This shows that temperament plays a decisive role while personal willpower can keep it in check.

It also shows that circumstance is not a decisive factor for one's sense of happiness. She argues that when one encounters accidents, job loss or divorce, one feels unhappy just as how when one gets a promotion, wins a lottery or moves into a bigger new house, one feels happy. In both cases, once the initial sentimental response fades, the sense of well-being returns to where it had been before.

So, the author thinks that a significant portion of what is called happiness is there for grabs. She suggests that when you feel unhappy, try to find meaningful work, count your blessings, smile and do good. Those who say they are happy are the people who enjoy company, have purpose-driven lives and don't sweat the small stuff.

Professor Lyubomirsky contends that unhappy people can become happier by learning the habits of the happy people. "Deciding to become happier entails making a choice about which perspective you take and acknowledging that the choice is in your hands." She said people are autonomous creatures living with unfettered free will.



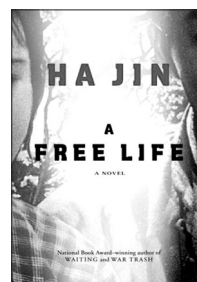
## Bookworm book listing

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

### A Free Life

By Ha Jin, 672pp, Pantheon Books, 190 yuan

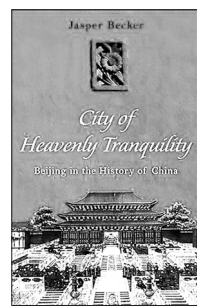
The story follows the fortunes of Nan Wu, who drops out of a US graduate school hoping to find his voice as a poet while supporting his wife, Pingping, and son, Taotao. Leaving his studies, he takes on a variety of menial jobs and struggles to adapt to a new language and culture. While Pingping grows more independent, Nan – amid the dulling minutiae of running a restaurant and worries about mortgage payments, insurance and schooling – slowly snuffs out the torch he carries for his first love.



### City of Heavenly Tranquility

By Jasper Becker, 384pp, Allen Lane, 330 yuan

For a thousand years, temples and shrines, palaces, and gardens had filled the walls of old Beijing. Its narrow, twisting streets held the collective memories of five dynasties and events of the 20th century. The author brings to life the strange and exotic lives of the emperors, eunuchs, courtesans and warriors who, for centuries, ruled from behind the red walls of the Forbidden City.

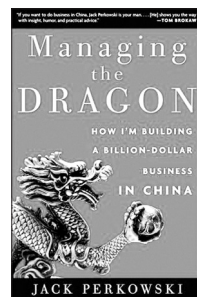


### Managing the Dragon

By Jack perkowski, 336pp, Crown Business, 220 yuan

The emergence of China as a world economic power is one of the biggest stories of our time. Every business that intends to be an important part of the fast-changing global economy needs to know how to play the game in China. This book can be read as an inspiring story of business success, a personal journey or a case study in building a business that combines the best features of global management and finance with entrepreneurial energy and talent.

(By Zheng Lu)





# Surf the world, one couch at a time

## A new travel wave

"I'm no longer interested in sightseeing and checking off tourist attractions on a list. I want to experience what it's like to live in another culture and ... save money," Li Lai, a CouchSurfing member from Nanjing, said. Four months ago, she planned a trip to Germany.

It was while making travel arrangements that she stumbled on CouchSurfing.com, a nonprofit organization and online network of nearly half a million people across the globe. Its members are either traveling and need a place to stay, or have a couch and will let travelers crash on it for free.

After signing up on the site as a member, she had her first taste of the network when she was invited to stay at a CouchSurfing member's place in Berlin.

## Worrying

"At first I was nervous about the prospect .... personal safety wasn't my concern, as each profile page was extremely detailed and gave the host's age, occupation, likes, dislikes, philosophies, countries they'd traveled, photographs and references from other couch surfers they had allowed to stay. It's surprising how much it can tell you about a person," Li said.

She said what concerned her most was having a conflict with her host. "Maybe they wouldn't find me interesting or even likable - after all, isn't this why they're offering a place for me to stay?" Li said.

Li's worries were echoed by other CouchSurfing members. "You never know who you will host, but it's interesting to guess before they arrive," Zhang Jinghua, a host from Hangzhou, said.

"We do get the eccentrics, of course, like a talkative American couple who said they were traveling to help each other through tough times, then vomited out their entire life stories in 90 minutes, but mostly, it's positive and great," she said.

## Colorful days

Li said she could sum up her couch surfing experience in one word: colorful. On her two-week journey, she stayed with five different families, each for two or three days.

When in Berlin, Li's host guided her to visit many places that she never heard of in the guidebook and invited her to a friend's wedding. When in Munich, her host was a history professor, and they discussed their countries' history till midnight. When in Frankfurt, she taught the host how to make Chinese food, and the host made a few German dishes for her.

"From the travels, I learned a lot about the relationships between different people. Goodwill and warm-hearted people can be found anywhere," Li said.

## A social network

Li said after the journey, she changed her mind about the experience. "The most amazing thing is that you can really get to know people," Li said. "And when you visit a place, it's not that you remem-

ber the place, you remember the people."

CouchSurfing's mission statement says that, beyond thrifty travel, its purpose is to "create educational exchanges, raise collective consciousness, spread tolerance and facilitate cultural understanding."

"No matter where anyone comes from, the differences can be not only overlooked but embraced and enjoyed because of the often-present trait in couch surfers, which is a willingness to learn and share," a couch surfer from Australia who goes by the username Flurf said.

Flurf said it is not just those away from home who are in search of adventure, but couch owners too. "As travelers, we hunger for experience, and as hosts we still do! So it's a bunch of like-minded people who can hang out, relax together, party together, talk and learn from each other," he said.

## Obeys the rules

Everything has rules, even couch surfing. Although membership on the site will get you free board, it is a good idea to take some gifts for the host from your home country or to invite him or her out for a drink or dinner.

For most hosts, staying three or four nights is fine, but longer stays are awkward.

Girls who are concerned about safety can choose a family's home rather than a single's house and choose a host with plenty of positive feedback. Before going to a host's home, talk to him or her over the phone or use Microsoft's MSN Messenger software.

## Signing up

Getting started with CouchSurfing is as simple as taking 10 minutes to fill out a profile similar to those found on networking and dating sites, except for one unique question: "Do you have a couch available?" Once the basic questions about yourself are answered, write a mission statement, map out your past and future travel destinations, upload a few photos and you are done!

The key feature of the Web site is CouchSearch, which helps users to find willing hosts. Once you find someone of interest, you can e-mail them through the Web site to begin a dialog.

## CouchSurfing

Couchsurfing.com was the brainchild of Casey Fenton, an American web consultant who, after buying a bargain flight to Iceland, realized that he had no interest in spending his hard-earned greenbacks on "rotting in a hotel all weekend playing Mr Tourist."

Fenton used the random networking potential of the Internet to spam a couple thousand Reykjavik students and asked whether they would put him up on their sofas and show him around their home cities.

The site's current members hail from 186 countries and speak 600 languages. Almost 90 percent of the members list English as one of those languages.

By Han Manman

Lots of people dream of traveling the world and seeing its wonders. Most of these dreams end up smashed when the reality of money rears its ugly head.

If hotels break your budget or you just want to plunge deeper into the local culture, leave your *Lonely Planet* guidebook behind and step into the world of CouchSurfing.



CFP Photo



# Time to make a big splash!

## Masks

A blue mask and snorkel will let you view underwater wonders this summer. This blue one is high quality. An important advantage in shark-infested waters.

Where: F5, Shin Kong Place, 87 Jianguolu, Chaoyang District  
Price: 490 yuan



By Gan Tian

Yansha Youyi Shopping City celebrated its 16th birthday last month by planting a giant sailboat in front of the mall, a sure sign of innumerable water sports just around the corner. Are you ready for the big splash?



## Life jackets

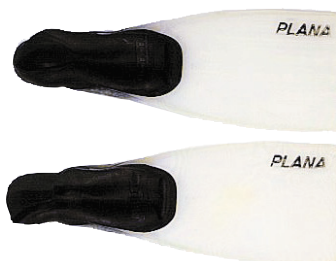
Wear these when you are ready for any kind of sea travel! This is bouyancy aid and lifejacket, produced by Peter Chadwick Dorling Kindersley, will suit you well. Its bright orange color will attract attention as soon as you are in trouble.

Where: F5, Shin Kong Place, 87 Jianguolu, Chaoyang District  
Price: 1,200 yuan

## Flippers

You certainly need a pair of flippers if you want to be super fast in the water. A pair of green ones is too ugly. Get the white ones. They will look like an extension of your leg.

Where: dkimages.com  
Price: unsettled



## Pocket reel

The small AP Valves Pocket Reel is the perfect solution to the problem of bulky and cumbersome SMB reels. Weighing only 205 grams it can be easily stored in a BCD Pocket. It comes with 40 meters of line.

Where: simplyscuba.com  
Price: £ 39.95



## Gul spray suit

The Gul Spray Suit has GCX lightweight and waterproof fabric, an adjustable neck seal, two-way zipper with storm flap, self-draining pockets and many other features. It is great in the water.

Where: comparestoreprices.co.uk  
Price: £ 37.00



## Water polo ball

If you hate working up a sweat playing basketball, football or volleyball in the humid summer heat, try water polo. Playing ball in the water will always keep you cool and refreshed.

Available: F5, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District  
Price: 250 yuan





# Beat the heat with traditional salads

By Sun Jina

Summer offers beautiful views and delicious dishes. Salad is cool and easy to make. It is delicious and convenient. But traditional Chinese salads have a much different flavor than Western fare. Try some of these salads the next time you need to beat the heat.



## Cucumber with hot and sour sauce

This dish is sour and spicy and very popular when Chinese people go out for a drink. It is also popular with people who are on a diet.

### Ingredients:

- 3 cucumbers
- 5 dried chili peppers
- 30 grams white vinegar
- dash of salt
- 25 grams sugar
- 5 grams sesame oil.

### Instructions:

1. Cut the cucumber into 5-centimeter pieces.
2. Put the cucumber and salt into a big bowl and store it for 30 minutes.
3. Pour out the water.
4. Add the white vinegar and sugar to the bowl and let it cure for 30 minutes.
5. Break up the dried chili peppers.
6. Heat the oil and add the dried chili peppers to it.
7. Pour the peppered oil over the salted cucumbers.

### Tips:

1. The flavor of this dish depends on the ratio of salt, sugar and vinegar.
2. The cucumber should be soaked well during both steps.
3. Fry the peppers for a very short time.
4. Store the finished dish in the refrigerator for eight hours before eating. It allows time for the flavor to develop.

## Sweetened garlic

When old Beijingers make hot pot, they often enjoy having sweetened garlic to go with it. Sweetened garlic can help break down grease and remove fishy odors. It also can assist digestion and goes well with lamb. Most supermarkets carry it.

### Tips:

1. If you find the flavor too bitter, then do not eat it.
2. Some Koreans make a more salty version, so choose whichever most suits your tastes.
3. Garlic is an acrid food. By soaking it in vinegar and white sugar, its potency is greatly reduced. It is a good addition to any meals with too much fat.
4. People with diabetes mellitis cannot eat sweetened garlic.



## Thousand-year egg and tofu

This dish is an ever-popular classic. It is cheap and delicious.

### Instructions:

Turn the nan tofu out on a dish. Wait briefly and drain the excess water. Peel the preserved egg, dice it and place it on the tofu. Mix chicken bullion, salt and sesame oil. Toss on a few sprigs of coriander and scallions. Cover with plastic food wrap to preserve the freshness, and mix the dish when you want to eat.

### Tips:

1. The materials used include preserved eggs and nan tofu. Nan tofu is tender, slippery and fragile. Shaping the tofu without destroying it is an

important part of making this salad.

2. Any shape you like is fine, but it still has to fit in a box.
3. Because tofu lacks any salt, you may want to add some.

### Scientific points:

Preserved eggs: many people like to make porridge using these. When you cook a preserved egg, it will absorb some amount of lead. Lead is known to cause brain damage and other problems, especially in children. The fibers in tofu can help prevent lead from being absorbed in the intestines. Its calcium also plays a role in preventing lead absorption.

## Spicy lung slices

This popular Sichuan dish is made mainly of beef. In Chinese, its name is "fuqi fei pian," or husband and wife lung slices.

In early Qing dynasty, there were many vendors who sold spicy lung slices. A couple, Guo Chaohua and Zhang Tianzheng, made the most delicious ones. The color was golden red and the flavor was fresh and delicious.

One made the dish and one sold it. One day, a customer who ate their spicy lung spices gave the shop a golden plaque that read "fu qi fei pian." The name stuck ever since.





# 5

## Friday, July 11

### Exhibition

#### Fragment – Li Wenfeng Solo Exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until July 31  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6432 4122, 13911166261

#### 2008 / 8002 Somnambulate Realism – Wang Du Solo Exhibition

Where: Arario Beijing, Brewery Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until August 20  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5202 3800

#### Russian Contemporary Show

The joint exhibition of Russian artists features Anna Sokolova, Anton S. Kandinsky, Blue Noses, Evfrosina Lavrukina, Petr Axenoff, Revision, Sergei Kiryuschenko, Tyminko and Mitrichenka.

Where: Han Ji Yun Contemporary Space, A 1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 11 am – 7 pm, until July 17  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6434 0266



### Movie

#### Les Triplettes de Belleville

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: 10-20 yuan  
Tel: 6553 2627

### Upcoming

#### Concert

**Concert by Macao Chinese Orchestra**  
Who: Macao Chinese Orchestra  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: 7:30 pm, July 12-13  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

### Stage in August

#### Concert

##### Concert by Liu Yang and Other Young Artists

Who: Liu Yang and China Film Symphony Orchestra  
Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng  
When: 7:30 pm, August 4  
Admission: 10-100 yuan  
Tel: 6605 7006

#### Hungarian Dances –

##### Waltz and World Classics

Who: Beijing Symphony Orchestra  
Where: Forbidden City Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: 7:30 pm, August 26  
Admission: 20-100 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

#### China Philharmonia

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra  
Where: Forbidden City Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: 7:30 pm, August 31  
Admission: 20-100 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

#### Drama

##### Action Musical Terracotta Warriors

Who: Sight, Sound and Action  
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng  
When: August 9-17  
Admission: 150-1,100 yuan  
Tel: 6835 4455

#### Rock Action Musical

##### Monkey King

Who: Sight, Sound and Action  
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng  
When: August 9-17  
Admission: 150-1,100 yuan  
Tel: 6835 4455

#### Dance

##### Night of Latin America

Who: Brazilian Samba Troupe, Andean Band from Peru and Colombia Dance Troupe  
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng  
When: 7:30 pm, August 1-2  
Admission: 60-880 yuan  
Tel: 5165 6039

##### La Sylphide and Napoli

Who: China National Ballet  
Where: National Grand Theater, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: 7:30 pm, August 9-10  
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

##### Flamenco Sabores

Who: Sara Baras  
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng  
When: 7:30 pm, August 20  
Admission: 80-680 yuan  
Tel: 5165 6039

##### Red Detachment of Women

Who: China National Ballet  
Where: National Grand Theater, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: 7:30 pm, August 22-23  
Admission: 80-500 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

# 6

## Saturday, July 12

### Exhibition

#### Memorandum for the Next Century – Shen Bian Solo Exhibition



Shen Bian expresses his innovation and shares his thoughts on losing the beautiful past. You can find the forgotten scenery in the post-contemporary style of his works.

Where: Expol-Sources Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun, 10:30 am – 6:30 pm, until July 27  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6431 4793

#### After Escaping from Reality – Yang Liming Solo Exhibition

Where: Triumph Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun, 10 am – 6:30 pm, until August 2  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8459 9639

#### A Trip to Dreamland – Zhang Shijun Solo Exhibition

Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, the Imperial Archives, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm, Sat-Sun, 10 am – 5 pm, until July 22  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6523 3320

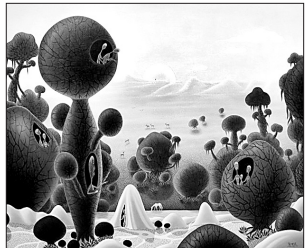
#### Movie

##### Palin Bollilco Mapu Meu

Where: Beijing Institute Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5879 9666

#### 2008 Ma Xiaochun Photographic Exhibition



Where: XYZ Gallery, D 06-6-1, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun, 11 am – 6 pm, until July 27

Admission: Free  
Tel: 8459 9299

#### Psi Girls – Susan Hiller Solo Exhibition

Psi Girls, first exhibited in 1999, is an installation of five simultaneous video projections, each a montage of brief sequences from various popular films that figure into an act of telekinesis performed by young girls.

Where: Joy Art, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun, 10 am – 6 pm, until August 30

Admission: Free  
Tel: 8459 9788

#### Fabulous Sports Scenes Press Photography Exhibition

There were so many quiet passion of sports In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Japan-China peace and friendship treaty.

Where: Millennium Hilarity Art Museum, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 6:30 pm, until July 14  
Admission: Free

(By Li Jing)

### Exhibition

#### Time and Writing – Liu Wentao Solo Exhibition

Where: White Space Beijing, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun, 11 am – 6 pm, until August 31  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8456 2054

# 7

## Sunday, July 13



# Judose: getting a leg up on sport

By Gan Tian

Judose is a sport in which one stands on one foot and fights his rival with single knee jabs. Beijing Forestry University saw the establishment of the Judose branch of the Beijing University Sports Association at the end of last month. In addition, the opening ceremony of the Judose training camp for Beijing overseas students took place on the site.

## What is Judose

Without the limitations of venue and environment, characterized as being easy to participate in and full of competition, the sport has long been popular with people of all ages.

In the sport, the participant stands on one

foot and attacks his opponent with one knee. The contestant wins if his rival is pushed outside the boundary lines or falls down due to loss of balance. This "warrior fighting with foot" is called Judose.

## Originated from kid's play

The basic form of Judose began as a traditional folk game, colloquially called "douji," "cripples knocking," "cripples fighting" or "cockfighting." From the north to the south of China, whether in the city or in rural areas, almost all boys knew the game well. Beijing Dedao Media has devoted itself to expanding the content of mass sports activities. It trans-

forms the traditional folk game in China into a modern sport through research and development.

The scientific research behind Judose started in June 2005. Experiments were carried out in four selected middle schools in Fujian Province, and then trial research was conducted at Beijing Sport University and the Capital

Institute of Physical Education. The research by the subject team consisting of domestic gymnasts and professionals showed that the sport of Judose with its confrontational style is a valuable source of exercise. With regular participation, the sport can increase effectively a man's explosive force and leg muscles, strengthen

## How to do it

Judose contests focus on confrontation and are divided into individual tournaments and team tournaments. A best four of seven with one minute per game format is adopted, and offender and defender are decided by drawing lots. The offender must defeat the defender in one minute, otherwise he is considered the loser. The offence and defense mechanism of Judose greatly prevents passive elements and increases the action of the competition, greatly

improving visual enjoyment. Ancient Chinese battle ideas are integrated into the design of the rules of team tournament play, which consist of private and soldier dual meets, private or soldier challenging rival's general and general challenge. In team tournament, there are eight members on each team including six privates or soldiers, one vice general and one general. Due to the adoption of multiple attacks, the contest is full of suspense, humor and wit.

## Background of Judose

The rules of the contest are simple and it is possible for anyone to become "sport star" in Judose. It is attracting the attention of 320 million adolescents in China and the interest of 2 billion sports lovers all over the world.

Rooted in local China, the contest is promoted globally. It has been registered and has won intellectual property pro-

tection in more than 30 countries and regions such as China, the US, Japan, Korea and Europe. To help popularize the sport in China and the world, organizations including the International Judose Association, International Judose Development, Beijing Dedao Media and the National Judose Promotion Committee have been established.

## Benefits of Judose

Maybe you are a runner, training on a regular basis, and want to find an activity that keeps your heart rate up but takes some of the impact stress off your body. Perhaps you have been doing some other form of land exercise, and now an injury prevents you from putting weight on a knee or ankle. Wu Linbin, the event's director of the National Judose Promotion Committee, said that if you keep on doing Judose, you will benefit in the following ways:

- You will get a lot of practice strengthening your legs.
- Standing on only one leg will greatly improve your balancing ability.
- The sport is more tiring than jogging

and running, but less tiring than weights. You will gain the benefits of all these aforementioned activities if you participate in Judose.

- It is good for you lungs and heart. Your cardiovascular system in particular benefits because it improves your body's use of oxygen without overworking your heart.
- It will tighten up your reflex action.
- Regular Judose games build endurance, muscle strength and cardio-vascular fitness. It can serve as a cross-training element to your regular workouts.
- Before starting the game, you should always do warm-ups and wear protective gear on your knees.

## Judose factoids

It is the first sports event with its own intellectual property protection rights in China.

It is an old and new sport with a 5,000-year history.

It is a national sport with historical breakthrough into traditional fighting

sports.

It is a stage for adolescents to realize their sports star dreams

It is a modern sport rooted in traditional Chinese culture and integrating ancient military ideas.





# Seeking sailing destinations

Sailing crafts use the power of the wind for propulsion. It is a sport and recreational activity.

Sailing is popular in coastal countries and regions, and many Chinese thrill seekers enjoy the risks that go with the high seas. Many sailing fans and clubs in Beijing set out every weekend to nearby coastal cities for fun.



This harbor in Qingdao is the Olympic sailing competition base.

## Qingdao

### Site of Olympic sailing

Since Qingdao was selected as the site of this year's Olympic sailing competition, it has gained notoriety as a sailing city. Chinese and foreigners both go there to sail. On the weekends, many people head to Qingdao by air to challenge its wind and waves.

Qingdao Yinhai International Yacht Club region is a newly-approved 4A resort in China. It is also the training base for this summer's Olympic sailing competition.

Visitors can go out to the sea on a sailboat. But if the wind is strong, they must be sure that their bodies can endure.

The base is strictly designed according to international yacht club standard. Professional wharf, yacht berths, boat-yards for ship repairs, training bases and slipways are all included. It is the first yacht club in China established according to high standard international yacht clubs.

The Chinese National Leveling Origin Area is also in the club region. It is another region authorized as a 4A resort. In China, the height of mountains and the depth of waters are all measured according to this leveling origin.

The open air field is available for barbeque parties in the evening.

**Where:** No 30, Donghai Zhong Lu, Qingdao, Shandong Province

**Tel:** 0532-8588 6666, 8588 0000

Local sailing clubs in Qingdao require about 1,000 yuan for registration and include going out to sea five times per month. For non-club members, the price varies. Some clubs require 40 to 50 yuan and some 700 to 1,000 yuan.

## Shenzhen

### Learn from foreign coaches

Shenzhen is another city in which sailing sports is popular. The Dameisha International Aquatic Center trains athletes in and promotes aquatic sports. It also provides training and living space for the sailing and sailboard team.

In the aquatic center, there are different training courses for children, youths and adults. It provides training in yacht maintenance and repair, and also sailor and captain training. Some of the coaches in the center are from abroad.

Enrico Zanella, an Italian sailing coach, is a current coach in the center. He is also an athlete on the Italian national team and will participate in the Olympics next month. He frequently takes athletes to Qingdao for training.

Zanella said that people needed to see the wind with their eyes and hear the wind with their ears. "When you turn your face, your left and right ears feel different wind strength. When both of your ears feel the same wind strength, it shows that you are now facing the direction whence the wind comes. Water can tell you from where the wind comes as well. When the sailing boat stops in the water, you must decide immediately whether you need to adjust the sail or the boat's direction," he said.

**Where:** the beach behind Jingji Sheraton Hotel, Dameisha, Yantian, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province

**Tel:** 0755- 8241 2975



View of a sailboat harbor through a hotel window in Shenzhen.

## Rizhao

### Neighbor of Qingdao

Rizhao International Sailing Competition Base was specially constructed for the European sailing championship in 2005 and the 470-class world sailing championship in 2006.

The sailing club, which looks like a ship, is on the north part of the base. The control center next to it is like a sail. The architecture embodies the free curve, looking like ocean waves.

Standing on the east bank of the harbor, people can see the formation of several small waterfalls at each mound. Sailing boats set off from the east bank and sail to the ocean. There are also audience areas for competitions.

The base is 62 nautical miles from the Olympic sailing water area in Qingdao. The environment and climate conditions are almost the same. Many athletes have already come for a warm-up.

**Where:** Haiqu Dong Lu, Rizhao, Shandong Province

## Others:

### Beidaihe Sailing Club

**Where:** the beach in Biluota Jiuba Park, Beidaihe, Hebei Province

**Price:** training for two-man sailing, 200 yuan per hour per person, 280 yuan per hour for two people to experience sail-

ing, 80 yuan for 20 minutes per person, 120 for 20 minutes for two people

**Tel:** 0335 4034555

### Haiyan Sailing Club

**Where:** Guanting reservoir, Yanqing District, Beijing

**Price:** 100 yuan per hour per person; 980 yuan for a 12-hour card; 5,000 yuan for a 100-hour card. All prices include coaching expense.

**Tel:** 137 1404 8720

(By Jackie Zhang)

The sailing competition between China, Japan and Korea was held last month in Rizhao, Shandong Province.

CFP Photos





# Strike up the band in Salzburg



Looking down on the Salzburg town

## Salzburg Music festival Feast in the hometown of Mozart

The Salzburg Music Festival from July 26 to August 31 is a prominent festival of music and drama. It is held each summer – for five weeks starting in late July – within the Austrian town of Salzburg, the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The festival will begin with the premiere of Don Giovanni, at the House for Mozart. The concert program will focus on the Continent Sciarino concert series and Schubert Scenes, particularly accommodating this year's motto. The Continents series will focus on the works of the Sicilian composer, Salvatore Sciarino.

The so-called festival district is located at the foot of the Mount Monchsberg.

The Large Festival Hall was built after plans by the Austrian architect, Clemens Holzmeister, and was inaugurated in 1960. The building seats an audience of 2,177. The Large Festival Hall is used for operas and festive concerts.

The House for Mozart is part of the Festival Hall complex. It was built from 2004 to 2006 following alterations to the Small Festival Hall and was opened in 2006 during the Mozart Year. It has 1,495 seats. The foyer from the former Small Festival Hall was incorporated to preserve the frescoes by Anton Faistauer, which date back to 1926.

The Felsenreitschule (Rocky Riding School) was built over 300 years ago to train the archbishop's cavalry. The foyer displays a 700-square-meter fresco of a riding technique called "Turkenstechen." The premises have been occupied by the Salzburg Festival since 1926. The open-air theater is ideally suited for operas and concerts and also for spoken theater. It seats a total of 1,549 people.

The Cathedral Square, the venerable courtyard of the cathedral, has been the magnificent stage setting for the traditional "Everyman" since 1920. The statues of the beautifully-designed facade of Salzburg's Cathedral unite the international and the local church: Peter and Paul with the Salzburg patrons St. Rupert and Virgil. Above them the Four Evangelists, on the pediment Christ flanked by Moses and Elijah.

The Landestheater, with its 732 seats, was inaugurated in 1893 and renovated in 1978. It is considered an ideal theater. Five works by Thomas Bernhard were originally performed here. The University Church, consecrated in 1707, is a popular setting not only for classical, sacred music but also for complicated pieces of music by modern composers. Sacred music concerts are also held in the Cathedral and in St. Peter's Church.

**Where:** Hofstallgasse 1, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria

**Email:** festspielshop@kulturmanagement.com

**Tel:** 0043-662-849 097

Summer is the season for art and music. Starting from the end of this month, the internationally-famous music festival, Salzburg Music Festival (Salzburger Festspiele) will take place in Austria.

This year, the theme of its operas, concerts and theater performances is "for love is as strong as death," from the Song of Solomon.

## Getreidegasse Heart of Austrian shopping center

Getreidegasse is the heart of Austria's most beautiful shopping center: artistic portals, picturesque arcade courtyards. The charm of the Getreidegasse, probably Salzburg's most famous shopping lane, is not only generated by the high, narrow houses tightly nestled together, the enticing shops and the wrought iron gilded signs, but also to the romantic passageways and courtyards.

Typical of these houses are the windows which become smaller from the first floor upwards, and their beautiful portals, such as the portal of No. 9, Mozart's birthplace. The Mozart Museum is located in the rooms formerly occupied by the Mozart family. Although the houses in the Getreidegasse appear to be very narrow they are not small, extending far back in depth on both sides of the street.

Today most people are attracted to the Getreidegasse because of its multitude of shops selling jewelry, traditional costumes, the latest fashions, antiques, leather and paper goods. Even today, the elegant and intricate guild signs of the restaurants, shops and workshops project above the visitors' heads. Many of these elaborate "advertising signs" are the product of skillful craftsmanship.



St. Peter's Cemetery

## St. Peter's Cemetery Final resting place for the celebrities

St. Peter's Cemetery, with its unique backdrop, is one of the oldest and most charming cemeteries in the world. It serves as the final resting place for many notable personalities, artists, scholars and merchants, such as Santino Solari, architect and builder of the Salzburg Cathedral, and Santino Nannerl Mozart, the composer's sister.

The so-called "catacombs," hewn out of the Monchsberg rock, are one of the special attractions at St. Peter's Cemetery and are of early Christian origin. St. Gertrude's Chapel and the Maximus Chapel are especially worth seeing.

**St. Peter's Cemetery**

**Where:** St. Peter Bezirk, A-5010 Salzburg

**Email:** stift-stpeter@eunet.at

**Opening hours:** summer 6.30 am-7 pm, winter 6.30 am-5.30 pm

**Tel:** 0043-662-844 576-89

**Catacombs**

**Where:** St. Peter's Monastery, A-5010 Salzburg

**Email:** virgil@stift-stpeter.at

**Tel:** 0043-676-784 7435 (By Jackie Zhang)



Getreidegasse, a beautiful shopping center in Salzburg



# A Mission for Success

By Luke Lombe

As you walk in the front door of the office foyer, hanging proudly above the waiting area sofa is a poster displaying the company vision and mission – a statement of intent declaring boldly for the world to see exactly what your company aspires to be and how it hopes to achieve this lofty goal. The “vision” is a picture of the company in an ideal world, where essentially you have reached the most seemingly unobtainable goal and have taken your company as far as possible. It’s the dream, the big picture ... the final destination. The “mission,” on the other hand, represents the fundamental purpose of your organization’s existence. Why are you here? What do you hope to achieve and what value do you propose to offer your clients? The “mission” is a statement of who you are. The “vision” is a statement of where you are going.

These two documents serve a variety of purposes. They clearly communicate the company’s identity to your stakeholders – clients, suppliers, government and media but they also serve a highly important internal function by:

- Assisting in guiding management’s strategic direction
- Defining performance standards
- Providing a framework for employee values and behavior
- Inspiring employees to work more productively by providing a focus and common goal



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While all of this looks great in theory, ask yourself honestly, does your vision and mission achieve any of these objectives effectively? Does your staff even know what your vision and mission are and what they need to do to help achieve these goals? And more importantly, do you even have a vision and mission?

One of the most important functions of these “statements” is to provide direction and focus to your staff. The main difference between a group and a team is that a team has a common goal or purpose. These two statements have the ability to unite your staff and provide them with the direction needed to work effectively together. In order to achieve this, however, you must be able to clearly communicate the relevance of these statements to each individual. What does it really mean to them? What do they need to do within their job in order to help the company achieve these goals?

Many employees are faced with a myriad of challenges in their daily work life. Their direction and focus is often limited to their immediate environ-

ment, and their goals are restricted to personal targets, Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s), ambitions and desires. Some of your staff may also focus on achieving departmental objectives, but more often than not, it is rare to find a team actively pursuing the company mission and vision with the same passion as their own personal or departmental goals. Often this is simply because they do not understand what these statements really mean to them.

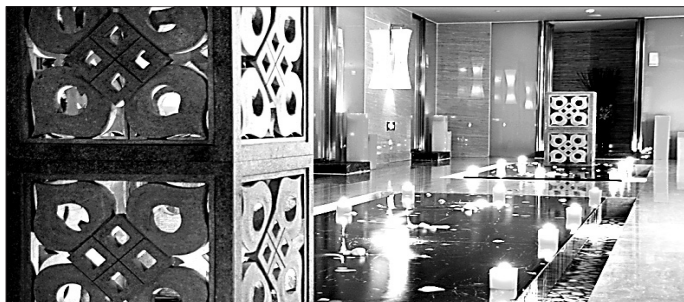
When building an effective team it is important that it is made aware of the “bigger picture.” Usually personal goals and departmental objectives are intertwined so that fulfillment of personal goals leads naturally to the achievement of departmental objectives. The next step in this process is linking these goals with the company mission and vision to create a clear path and target alignment. Focusing on the bigger picture can also uncover a wealth of opportunities that might otherwise go unnoticed. Departments will be more inclined to co-operate than compete and your team will develop a sense of “ownership” in



Luke Lombe  
National Marketing Manager  
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your organization. This can have a profound impact on your effectiveness and overall success as a business and will bring you closer to saying “mission accomplished!”

## Hotel



### Extended luxurious weekend with LeSpa

LeSpa in Sofitel Wanda Beijing offers a promotion every weekend from 2 pm to 6 pm. One hour LeSpa treatment plus access to the swimming pool, fitness center and sauna is 400 yuan for the single package and 700 yuan for

the couples package. The access to the swimming pool, fitness center and sauna is 400 yuan for the family package.

**Where:** Sofitel Wanda Beijing – Tower C, Wanda plaza 93 Jianguo Road, Chaoyang

**When:** 2-6 pm (weekends)

**Tel:** 8599 6666

### Courtyard by Marriott Beijing Northeast

Courtyard by Marriott Beijing Northeast is introducing an exclusive opening rate of 960 yuan for weekdays and 888 yuan for weekends, including Friday, Saturday and Sunday, until July 31.

Courtyard by Marriott Beijing Northeast is near the northwest corner of Jianguo Lu, within 20 minutes driving distance from the Beijing Capital International Airport and well-positioned between the Lido Commercial District and Wangjing High Tech Park.

**Where:** Courtyard by Marriott Beijing Northeast, 101 Jingshun Lu, Chaoyang

**Tel:** 400 888 5551

## Nightlife

### Wyborowa Exquisite party

The perfect DJ for the Glamour Bar Shanghai crowd will spin a night of savvy house grooves popular the world over. Special Wyborowa Exquisite cocktails will be available all night. If you buy one bottle of Exquisite, you have a chance to win Frank Gehry-designed Tiffany jewelry.

**Where:** LAN Club, 4/F TwinstowerB-12, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

**When:** 9 pm till late, July 11

**Cost:** 150 yuan (including one glass of Wyborowa drink)

**Tel:** 5109 6012

### Town-Spring Band Beijing tour

**Where:** New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

**When:** 9 pm

**Cost:** 30 yuan

**Tel:** 8448 3335

### Morse

**Where:** White Rabbit Club, C2, Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

**When:** 11 pm – 4 am (next day), July 11

**Cost:** 30 yuan

**Tel:** 13321123678

(By Li Jing)

## Outdoors

### Moyas Great Wall hike overnight

This overnight hike features stretches of the Great Wall, the Great Wall Spur and the Chinese Knot. The Chinese Knot is a place where three stretches of the Great Wall meet in a shape reminiscent of a knot used in traditional Chinese macrame.

**Where:** Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jianguo Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

**When:** 9 am – 4 pm (next day), July 12-13

**Cost:** 650 yuan

**Tel:** 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

### Huitengxile Inner Mongolia grassland

Huitengxile is less spoiled and tourism friendly. Mushroom-like yurts, bright sky, fresh air, rolling grass and the flocks and herds moving like white clouds on the remote grassland will give you a quiet and relaxing impression you will never forget.

**When:** Fly to Hohhot on July 12 and fly back on July 13

**Cost:** 2,800 yuan

**Tel:** 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to [lixiaojing@ynet.com](mailto:lixiaojing@ynet.com)



## Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

# Laboring over the Lab

By Charles Zhu

John came from western Massachusetts. He had built a wooden house in the forest. A very nice one with its drawing room glassed on two sides facing the wilderness and a beautiful mansard roof. Occasionally, when he was having breakfast, he would spot a woodpecker on a tree or a raccoon coming to retrieve food he had left in the yard. It was not far away from a number of small lakes shielded by trees. Whenever we met in Cambridge, he invariably talked about his house, of which he was very proud. He invited almost everyone to go to his home whenever it was convenient.

Some time later, he stopped talking about his house and began to obsess over his Lab. He said he was fascinated with it. The Lab was more beautiful than anything else and he buried it in adjectives and said it was all he wanted in life.

What was this Lab anyway? Had he become so obsessed with his chemistry hobby that he had built himself a small laboratory in his house?

I turned to Webster and tried to sort out the Lab mystery. In the dictionary, Lab refers to an abbreviation for laboratory. There are no other meanings mentioned whatsoever.

But, from his talk it was not something dead like a chemical laboratory. It seemed more alive than an inanimate object. I supposed that it was his new girlfriend who he had nicknamed "the Lab." He said that when he went back to western Massachusetts, he

ran every morning with his lab who was fond of water and exceedingly happy when swimming. His Lab loved his company and became extremely distressed when left alone at home.

I figured that I had assumed correctly.

But my conclusion to the mystery was blown a few weeks later when he brought his girlfriend to Cambridge and announced she was Elizabeth. She was not called the Lab!

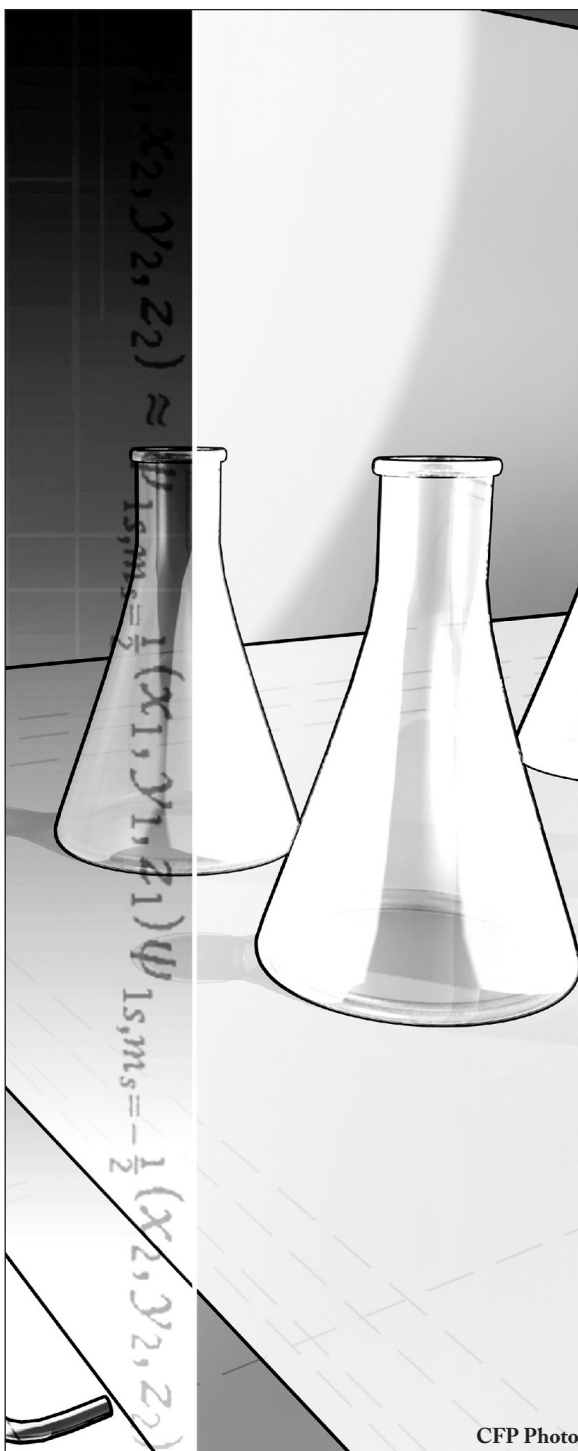
Then, who was this mysterious Lab that ran every morning with John?

I could not suppress my curiosity and asked John one day who was this Lab he was always talking about.

John laughed and said that the Lab was his dog. It was sort of a gundog and a good retriever when it was first raised by the Britons. As such, they still retain their webbed feet and the waterproof double coat of their ancestors and one of their greatest joys is to go swimming or dashing off to retrieve something for you. The Labrador Retriever is one of the most famous, popular and widespread breeds. The "Lab," or "Labby," is the abbreviation for the Labrador puppy in US colloquialism. You can find this usage even in Philip Roth's novel "Sabbath Theater."

I learned something from John that even an erudite dictionary could not teach me!

It proved to me once again that language is continually evolving in daily life. You can not always abide by dictionaries.



CFP Photo

## Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

## Local professor: Zhu Shida

### 1. A half a month

When you mean a thing is divided into two equal parts, you will use half. For instance, it is half a pound, half an orange or half a tract of land. It is not necessary to add an indefinite article before "half" when talking time. For instance, "He spent half a month writing the paper." If it is a habitual act, you may also say, "He comes here to see her every half a month." When you mean to say something is half of one thing and half of something else or something is in equal parts, you will say "half-and-half." For example, "the chances are half-and-half."

### 2. Three days before caught

This is typical Chinglish thought using Chinese linguistic logic. In English you can never say "before caught." Grammatically, you will have to say "before being caught" or "before his being caught." In the adverbial phrase beginning with a preposition, you will have to use the participle form of the verb in either active or passive voice if you wish to omit the subject. For instance, "Before going to Harvard, he studied at Eton." Or, "He studied at Eton before being enrolled at Harvard."

### 3. I don't like people say this.

There are only a very limited number of verbs in English, such as let, watch and make, that can be followed by an infinitive without taking the infinitive sign of "to." Obviously the verb to like is not included. This mistaken sentence has passed through the hands of quite a few people and the error remains. This shows that such an inherent mistake is obstinate and hard to detect. And precisely because of this, we will take redoubled efforts to clear away such mistakes in our English writing. The sentence should read, "I don't like people to say this."

## Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

### 1. A half a month

You have used the article "a" too many times here in this particular example. You're starting to sound Canadian, not that that is a bad thing. When you start talking about a length of time, the structure can change. For instance, "She spent half a month teaching him English." Please note that the article "a" is not present before the word "half." This represents common usage. Saying, "She spent a half a month teaching him English" is not good grammar. You can also say, "She spent a half month teaching him English." When the word "half" is turned into an adjective, the "a" is allowed to precede the word. It all depends on your grammatical structure choice. "Half" is used when something is divided into two equal parts. For example, "He cut the watermelon in half. He gave a half to her and a half to him." Now, in this example, again the article "a" does come before the word, "half." That's the lowdown on the half and half-nots.

### 2. Three days before caught

To being or not to being, that is the question. And the answer is, "to being." My apologies to the bard for murdering his fine work. The example phrase needs the word, "being" placed neatly behind the word "caught" if you want to catch the positive attention of any English professor. The phrase should read, "Three days before being caught."

### 3. I don't like people say this

Again, by eliminating the small word, "to," you are sounding like Tonto talking to The Lone Ranger in days of the old west. Not good, kemosabe. By adding the little word, "to" before the verb "say," we can "put ear to ground and hear good grammar approaching." The sentence now reads, "I don't like people to say this," and is correct. Or, if you are a sort of anti-"to"rist and don't like using the word "to," simply say, "I don't like people saying this." Problem solved. Who was that masked writer?

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Windows are not trash cans



By Derrick Sobodash

It was raining cats and dogs in Beijing last week. In this writer's neighborhood, it was also raining rubbish. Sadly, that probably means homes in

this are not equipped with this week's fantastic placard.

Its text reads, "Strictly forbid toward window to throw to throw a product."

While this sign managed to convey the intended meaning, its English has far more problems than a repeat use of the infinitive form of throw. Speaking logically, there should be no difference between something being forbidden and strictly forbidden.

"Toward window" is problematic. Window needs the definite article "the," and while the Chinese does say towards, it does not quite work in English. In English, "toward the

window" sounds like "at the window" — something that would break the window. That's just common sense. Instead, try "from the window" or "out the window."

Calling the object a "product" is also awkward. Product is customer service-speak for anything in a store. It would be better to say "object," or even "anything."

This gets the sign to, "It is forbidden to throw anything out the window." This works, but it is a little wordy. It could be slightly altered to fit the English sign style as "Do not throw things out the window."





# Ratatouille (2007)

## Movie of the week

This is a story of a unique dreamer, a rat, who clings to his beliefs and through his great efforts is finally accepted by people. Perhaps a truth has been neglected for long time that even the smallest of animals have their feelings, too. Humans always consider this world as theirs and extinguish ruthlessly anything that threatens or will threaten that way of life. The movie forces one to think of the other animals sharing the same planet, no matter how small they are, and the belief that "Anyone can ..." should be kept in one's mind and applied to all living creatures without exception or judgement.

## Synopsis

Remy is a rat living in the underground of Paris, he has a nose characteristic of the most outstanding of chefs and a taste that would normally belong to the pickiest of gourmets. He believes in the theory that "Anyone can cook." Remy dreams of becoming a chef. On the contrary, Linguini, a young descendant of the mighty Gusteau, does not have a gift for cooking. Accidentally the rat meets the boy. With Remy's help alone, Linguini is pushed onto center stage and becomes a master cook with his culinary creations being so delicious and full of imagination that people are drawn from all over to experience them.

## Scene 1

### Remy and his brother search for food in a house

**Remy (R):** Good thing the old lady is a food lover ...

**Gusteau (G):** Forget mistakes. This is about your cooking.

**R:** Hey! That's Gusteau. Emile, look.

**G:** Great cooking is not for the faint of heart<sup>(1)</sup>. You must be imaginative, strong hearted. You must try things that may not work. And you must not let anyone define your limits because of where you come from. Your only limit is your soul. What I say is true. Anyone can cook, but only the fearless can be great.

**R:** Pure poetry.

**Announcer:** But it was not to last. Gusteau's restaurant lost one of its five stars after a scathing<sup>(2)</sup> review by France's top food critic, Anton Ego. It was a severe blow<sup>(3)</sup> to Gusteau, and the brokenhearted chef died shortly afterwards, which, according to tradi-

tion, meant the loss of another star.

**R:** Gusteau is dead?

## Scene 2

### Skinner finds Linguini cooked the soup and wants to fire him

**Skinner (S):** The soup! Where is the soup? Out of my way! Move it, garbage boy! You are cooking? How dare you cook in my kitchen? Where do you get the gall<sup>(4)</sup> to even attempt something so monumentally idiotic? I should have you drawn and quartered<sup>(5)</sup>! I'll do it. I think the law is on my side. Larousse, draw and quarter this man after you put him in the duck press to squeeze the fat out of his head. What are you blathering<sup>(6)</sup> about?

**Linguini (L):** The soup!

**S:** Soup? Stop that soup! No!

**Customer:** Waiter.

**S:** Linguini! You're fired! F-I-R-E-D! Fired!

**Waiter (W):** She wants to see

the chef.

**S:** But he ...

**Colette (C):** What did the customer say?

**W:** It was not a customer. It was a critic.

**C:** Ego?

**S:** Solene Leclaire.

**C:** LeClaire? What did she say?

**W:** She likes our soup.

**Gusteau (G):** Wait.

**Remy:** What do you mean, "Wait"? You're the reason I'm in this mess.

**G:** Someone is asking about your soup.

**S:** What are you playing at<sup>(7)</sup>?

**L:** Am I still fired?

**C:** You can't fire him.

**S:** What?

**C:** Leclaire likes it, yes? She made a point of telling you so<sup>(8)</sup>. If she writes a review to that effect and finds out you fired the cook responsible ...

**S:** He's a garbage boy.

**C:** Who made something she liked. How can we claim to represent the name of Gusteau if we don't uphold his most cherished belief?



**S:** And what belief is that, Mademoiselle Tatou?

**C:** Anyone can cook.

**S:** Perhaps I have been a bit harsh<sup>(9)</sup> on our new garbage boy. He has taken a bold risk and we should reward that, as Chef Gusteau would have. If he wishes to swim in dangerous waters, who are we to deny him?

## Scene 3

### The lawyer confirms Linguini's family background

**Lawyer (L):** The DNA matches, the timing works, everything checks out. He is Gusteau's son.

**Skinner (S):** This can't just happen! The whole thing is a setup<sup>(10)</sup>! The boy knows! Look at him out there, pretending to be an idiot. He's toying with<sup>(11)</sup> my mind like a cat with a ball of ... something.

**L:** String?

**S:** Yes! He's playing dumb<sup>(12)</sup>, taunting me with<sup>(13)</sup> that rat.

**L:** Rat?

**S:** Yes. He's consorting with it. Deliberately trying to make me think it's important.

**L:** The rat.

**S:** Exactly!

**L:** Is the rat important?

**S:** Of course not! He just wants me to think that it is. Oh, I see the theatricality of it. A rat appears on the boy's first night, I order him to kill it. And now he wants me to see it everywhere. Ooh! It's here! No, it isn't, it's here! Am I seeing things, am I crazy? Is there a phantom<sup>(14)</sup> rat or is there not? But, oh, no! I refuse to be sucked into his little game of ...

## Vocabulary:

**1. Faint of heart:** people who are timid, easily frightened.

**2. Scathing:** bitterly denunciatory; harshly critical.

**3. Blow:** an unexpected shock.

**4. Gall:** outrageous insolence; effrontery.

**5. Draw and quarter:** to execute (a prisoner) by tying each limb to a horse and driving the horses in differ-

ent directions.

**6. Blather:** to talk nonsensically.

**7. Play at something:** to pretend to do something.

**8. Make a point of doing something:** to be certain to do something that you think is important.

**9. Harsh:** severe, cruel, or exacting.

**10. Setup:** the way in which something is constituted, arranged, or planned.

**11. Toy with:** to handle something or move it around without any clear purpose.

**12. Play dumb:** pretend ignorance.

**13. Taunt someone with something:** to tease or provoke (someone) with jeering remarks.

**14. Phantom:** something apparently seen, heard or sensed, but having no physical reality.

(By Zheng Lu)

